

Head 45 — FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Controlling officer: the Director of Fire Services will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2019–20 **\$7,161.6m**

Establishment ceiling 2019–20 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 11 053 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2019 rising by 116 posts to 11 169 posts as at 31 March 2020..... **\$4,753.9m**

In addition, there will be an estimated 19 directorate posts as at 31 March 2019 and as at 31 March 2020.

Commitment balance..... **\$668.9m**

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

Programme (1) Fire Service
Programme (2) Fire Protection and Prevention
Programme (3) Ambulance Service

These programmes contribute to Policy Area 9: Internal Security (Secretary for Security).

Detail

Programme (1): Fire Service

	2017–18 (Actual)	2018–19 (Original)	2018–19 (Revised)	2019–20 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	3,619.8	4,057.7	3,983.2 (–1.8%)	4,330.6 (+8.7%)
				(or +6.7% on 2018–19 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to extinguish fires, to protect life and property in case of fire or other calamity and to carry out fire hazard abatement action.

Brief Description

3 Through the strategic deployment of properly trained staff, equipment and appliances within each Command area, effective fire fighting and rescue services are maintained to respond to emergency calls expeditiously and efficiently in order to protect lives and properties. The Fire Services Department will continue to take action to abate imminent fire hazard and promote public awareness of fire safety. This work mainly involves:

- providing an efficient and effective fire service to the community;
- ensuring that all fire fighting and rescue units are in an immediate state of readiness to respond to emergency calls at all times;
- providing refresher and tactical training to all service staff to ensure that performance is maintained at the highest possible standard;
- ensuring that fire safety regulations are observed and emergency vehicular accesses are properly maintained by the public; and
- advising on and responding to fire safety issues in District Councils and District Fire Safety Committees, and organising fire safety publicity activities as part of the efforts to strengthen community involvement in the fight against fire.

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4 The key performance measures in respect of the provision of fire service are:

Targets

	Target	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Plan)
total building fire calls met within graded response time (%).....	92.5	94.3	93.8	92.5
fire calls met within graded response time of six minutes for built-up areas (%).....	92.5	94.1	93.6	92.5
fire calls met within graded response time of nine to 23 minutes for more dispersed risk/isolated developments (%).....	94.5	96.7	95.4	95.0
complaints of imminent fire hazards answered within 24 hours (%).....	100	100	100	100
requests for fire drills, fire safety talks, seminars, exhibitions, meetings and operational visits attended (%).....	100	100	100	100

Indicators

	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Estimate)
all fire calls.....	33 934	33 463	34 000
building fire calls in built-up areas.....	26 460	25 806	26 000
building fire calls in more dispersed risk/isolated developments.....	2 869	2 956	3 000
special service calls.....	36 326	37 815	37 800
emergency ambulance calls attended by first responders.....	40 298	49 886	50 000
turnouts of fire appliances to emergency calls.....	156 152	157 090	157 000
emergency move-ups of fire appliances to provide operational coverage.....	59 343	60 568	61 000
complaints of imminent fire hazards received.....	8 384	8 670	8 700
Fire Hazard Abatement Notices issued in respect of floating obstructions to means of escape (MOE) and locked exits.....	2 511	2 290	2 500
prosecutions instituted.....	258	315	300
inspection of hospitals/clinics.....	465	467	470
lectures and advisory services given to hospitals/clinics.....	1 018	1 016	1 000
inspection of fire service installation (FSI) to verify the accuracy of maintenance certificates.....	18 561	19 936	19 000

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019–20

5 During 2019–20, the Department will:

- continue to enhance live-fire and rescue training for and on-scene operational safety of frontline fire personnel;
- continue to monitor the development of a new fire station with ambulance facilities at the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and the construction of fire services facilities to support the Three-Runway System (3RS) at the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA);
- pursue the plan for procurement of fire appliances to support the 3RS at HKIA, and continue to monitor the progress of the replacement and procurement of other fire appliances and vessels; and
- continue to pursue the replacement of the mobilising and communication system for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency in deploying fire fighting, rescue and ambulance resources.

Programme (2): Fire Protection and Prevention

	2017–18 (Actual)	2018–19 (Original)	2018–19 (Revised)	2019–20 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	517.2	549.9	605.5 (+10.1%)	654.4 (+8.1%)

(or +19.0% on
2018–19 Original)

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Aim

6 The aim is to reduce fire hazards in the community and to ensure that appropriate fire protection measures are provided in buildings and premises according to their intended use(s).

Brief Description

7 The two Fire Protection Commands are responsible for the control of dangerous goods and timber stores, abatement of fire hazards in general, registration of FSI contractors, formulation and inspection of fire safety measures in buildings, and upgrading of fire safety standards in prescribed commercial premises, specified commercial buildings, composite buildings and domestic buildings. They also advise relevant statutory authorities and the public on fire protection/prevention and promote public awareness of fire safety and emergency preparedness. This work mainly involves:

- licensing storage or manufacture of Category 2 (other than liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)) to Category 10 dangerous goods, storage of timber and vehicles for conveyance of Category 2 (other than LPG) and Category 5 dangerous goods;
- conducting investigation of complaints about dangerous goods (other than LPG), illicit fuelling activities, vehicle repair workshops and fire hazards and initiating law enforcement action;
- registration of FSI contractors and monitoring of their performance;
- vetting and certifying building plans in respect of provision of FSIs and equipment;
- ensuring the provision and proper maintenance of FSIs and equipment in buildings;
- vetting and approving portable fire fighting equipment;
- conducting inspection of fire safety in schools, child care centres, food premises, prescribed commercial premises, specified commercial buildings, composite buildings, karaoke establishments, drug dependent persons treatment and rehabilitation centres, and places of public entertainment;
- conducting inspection of ventilating systems in buildings and licensed premises;
- giving lectures and advisory services on fire safety of premises other than hospitals and clinics;
- processing loan applications on fire safety improvement works under the Comprehensive Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme;
- upgrading fire safety measures in prescribed commercial premises, specified commercial buildings, composite buildings and domestic buildings;
- inculcating a fire safety culture in Hong Kong and encouraging greater community involvement in improving fire safety; and
- conducting educational and publicity activities to enhance the awareness of emergency preparedness in the community.

8 The key performance measures in respect of fire protection and prevention are:

Targets

	Target	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Plan)
safety requirements issued within 28 working days for storage/manufacture of Category 2 (other than LPG) to Category 10 dangerous goods and/or for storage of timber following receipt of application and the required details/plans in full (%).....	100	100	100	100
safety requirements issued within six working days for vehicles used for conveyance of Category 2 (other than LPG) or Category 5 dangerous goods following receipt of application (%).....	100	100	100	100
licences issued within six working days for storage/manufacture of Category 2 (other than LPG) to Category 10 dangerous goods and/or storage of timber upon confirmation of full compliance with safety requirements (%)	100	100	100	100

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	Target	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Plan)
licences issued within six working days for vehicles used for conveyance of Category 2 (other than LPG) or Category 5 dangerous goods upon confirmation of full compliance with safety requirements (%).....	100	100	100	100
fire safety requirements issued within 20 working days for the licensing/ registration of schools, child care centres, food premises, places of public entertainment, karaoke establishments, and drug dependent persons treatment and rehabilitation centres following receipt of application and the required details/plans in full (%).....	90	100	100	95
Fire Services Certificates issued within seven working days upon confirmation of full compliance with fire safety requirements for all licence/registration applications (%).....	90	100	100	95
complaints about dangerous goods (other than LPG) or reports of fire hazards posing imminent danger investigated within 24 hours (%).....	100	100	100	100
complainants for complaints related to imminent danger advised within 12 working days of outcome of investigation (%).....	90	100	100	95
complaints about fire hazards not posing imminent danger investigated within ten working days (%).....	95.0	100	99.9	95.0
complainants for complaints not related to imminent danger advised within 27 working days of outcome of investigation (%).....	90.0	100	99.9	95.0
applications processed within seven working days for registration as FSI contractors (%).....	100	100	100	100
letters of approval issued within 14 working days to applicants for registration as FSI contractors upon completion of all formalities (%).....	100	100	100	100
no. of prescribed commercial premises inspected.....	50	50	50	50
no. of specified commercial buildings inspected.....	20	20	20	20
no. of composite buildings inspected.....	400	416	406	400

Indicators

	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Estimate)
licences renewed/issued			
timber/dangerous goods stores.....	4 260	4 492	4 400
dangerous goods vehicles.....	2 013	2 081	2 000
Fire Hazard Abatement Notices issued (other than floating obstructions to MOE and locked exits).....	12 539	8 777	8 000
prosecutions instituted			
dangerous goods and timber stores.....	219	181	230
fire hazards.....	473	425	400
building plans processed.....	20 966	22 260	24 000
inspection of FSIs and equipment.....	201 716	227 296	230 000
applications for approval of portable fire fighting equipment and FSI/equipment processed.....	329	209	200

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	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Estimate)
inspection of fire safety in schools, child care centres, food premises, places of public entertainment, karaoke establishments, and drug dependent persons treatment and rehabilitation centres.....	39 789	40 725	39 000
inspection of fire safety in commercial premises and composite buildings.....	68 778	65 003	62 000
inspection of ventilating systems in buildings and licensed premises.....	32 418	33 559	33 300
lectures and advisory services given (other than hospitals/clinics).....	126 472	133 480	127 400
prescribed commercial premises			
no. of fire safety directions issued.....	787	804	800
no. of fire safety directions complied with/discharged ...	850	850	850
specified commercial buildings			
no. of fire safety improvement directions issued.....	2 010	2 045	2 000
no. of fire safety improvement directions complied with/discharged.....	3 228	3 997	3 500
composite buildings			
no. of fire safety directions issued.....	15 069	21 375	16 000
no. of fire safety directions complied with/discharged ...	7 529	7 827	7 500

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019–20

9 During 2019–20, the Department will continue to:

- conduct inspection with a view to enhancing fire protection measures for prescribed commercial premises with floor area exceeding 230 square metres, specified commercial buildings and pre-1987 composite/domestic buildings;
- pursue legislative work and enforcement actions to improve the fire safety of industrial buildings;
- fine-tune the proposals for amending the remaining subsidiary legislation under the Dangerous Goods Ordinance (Cap. 295) to enhance the control of dangerous goods;
- review the legislative provisions regarding the registration scheme for FSI contractors;
- pursue legislative work for the introduction of a scheme for registered fire engineers; and
- enhance public awareness of community emergency preparedness.

Programme (3): Ambulance Service

	2017–18 (Actual)	2018–19 (Original)	2018–19 (Revised)	2019–20 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	1,757.0	2,069.1	1,898.7 (–8.2%)	2,176.6 (+14.6%)
				(or +5.2% on 2018–19 Original)

Aim

10 The aim is to provide an efficient and effective paramedic emergency ambulance service to meet public demand.

Brief Description

11 Through strategic deployment of properly trained staff, equipment and ambulances, the Department maintains an ambulance service that responds to ambulance calls effectively and efficiently. This work mainly involves:

- rendering assistance to any person who appears to need prompt or immediate medical attention by securing his safety, resuscitating or sustaining his life and reducing his suffering or distress;
- ensuring that all emergency calls that require the immediate provision of ambulance aid and subsequent conveyance of the sick or injured persons to hospital are responded to as expeditiously as possible;
- ensuring that all hospital transfer calls received by the Department, involving the transfer of patients from a hospital or clinic to an acute hospital for urgent medical investigation or treatment are responded to as expeditiously as possible;
- ensuring that all ambulances and equipment are well maintained and fully operational at all times;

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- maintaining good working relationship with district organisations, medical institutions, etc., to facilitate the effective and efficient discharge of operational duties; and
- maintaining and enhancing pre-hospital emergency care knowledge and skills of personnel through regular and specialised training.

12 The key performance measures in respect of the provision of ambulance service are:

Target

	Target	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Plan)
emergency calls answered within the target response time of 12 minutes (%)...	92.5	95.1	94.6	92.5

Indicators

	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Estimate)
no. of emergency calls.....	734 310	748 777	761 500
no. of hospital transfer calls	50 034	54 642	56 800
calls per ambulance	2 016	2 098	2 088
turnouts of ambulances, ambulance motor cycles and Rapid Response Vehicles to calls	850 681	877 947	898 100
emergency move-ups of ambulances to provide operational coverage.....	95 219	93 269	101 600

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019–20

13 During 2019–20, the Department will continue to:

- implement the Rapid Response Vehicle Scheme to enhance the delivery of paramedic ambulance service and quality assurance;
- implement a community education programme on cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and the use of public access defibrillator;
- strengthen publicity activities to educate the public on the proper use of emergency ambulance service;
- enhance the provision of post-dispatch advice to callers requesting emergency ambulance service; and
- explore the long-term arrangement for the provision of emergency ambulance service.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2017–18 (Actual) (\$m)	2018–19 (Original) (\$m)	2018–19 (Revised) (\$m)	2019–20 (Estimate) (\$m)
Programme				
(1) Fire Service	3,619.8	4,057.7	3,983.2	4,330.6
(2) Fire Protection and Prevention	517.2	549.9	605.5	654.4
(3) Ambulance Service	1,757.0	2,069.1	1,898.7	2,176.6
	5,894.0	6,676.7	6,487.4 (–2.8%)	7,161.6 (+10.4%)
				(or +7.3% on 2018–19 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2019–20 is \$347.4 million (8.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2018–19. This is mainly due to the net increase of 18 posts, as well as additional provision for filling vacancies, and increased cash flow requirement for capital items.

Programme (2)

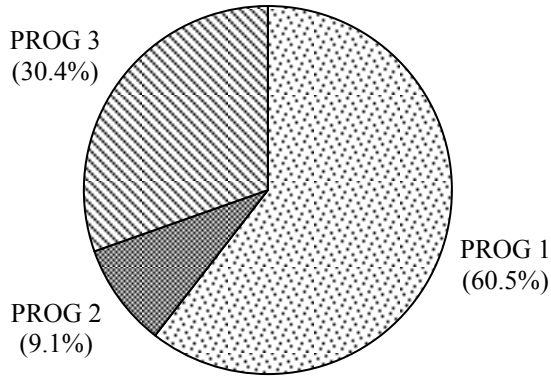
Provision for 2019–20 is \$48.9 million (8.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 2018–19. This is mainly due to the net increase of eight posts, as well as additional provision for filling vacancies, and increased operating expenses and cash flow requirement for a capital item.

Programme (3)

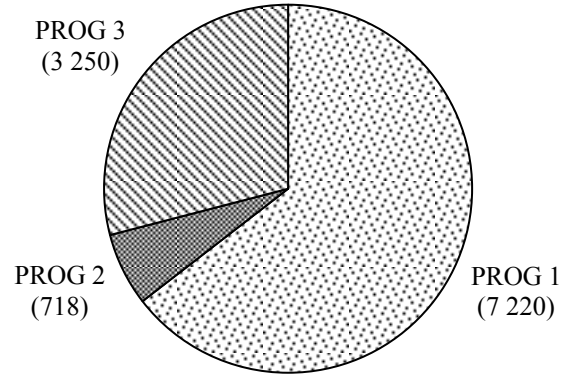
Provision for 2019–20 is \$277.9 million (14.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2018–19. This is mainly due to the net increase of 90 posts, as well as additional provision for filling vacancies, and increased operating expenses and cash flow requirement for capital items.

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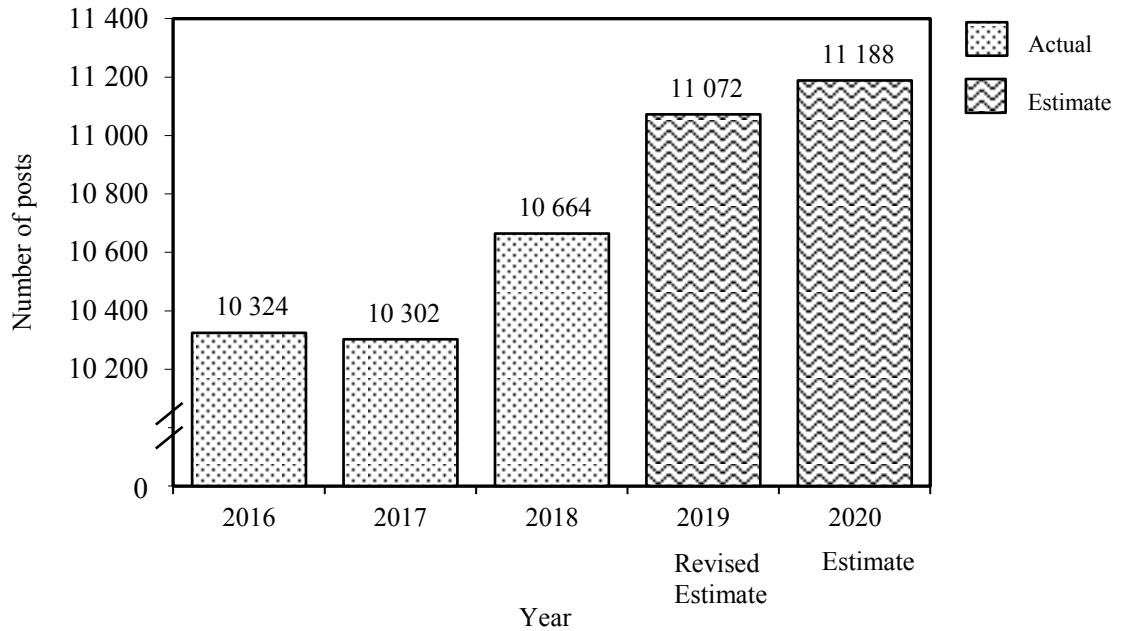
*Allocation of provision
to programmes
(2019-20)*



*Staff by programme
(as at 31 March 2020)*



*Changes in the size of the establishment
(as at 31 March)*



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2017-18	Approved estimate 2018-19	Revised estimate 2018-19	Estimate 2019-20	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	5,675,389	6,014,335	6,202,498	6,407,884
	Total, Recurrent	5,675,389	6,014,335	6,202,498	6,407,884
	Total, Operating Account	5,675,389	6,014,335	6,202,498	6,407,884
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Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
603	Plant, vehicles and equipment.....	78,936	67,679	85,541	86,717
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	36,683	381,395	84,730	407,102
690	Town ambulances (block vote).....	102,992	213,314	114,602	259,885
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	218,611	662,388	284,873	753,704
	Total, Capital Account.....	218,611	662,388	284,873	753,704
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	Total Expenditure	5,894,000	6,676,723	6,487,371	7,161,588

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2019–20 for the salaries and expenses of the Fire Services Department is \$7,161,588,000. This represents an increase of \$674,217,000 over the revised estimate for 2018–19 and \$1,267,588,000 over the actual expenditure in 2017–18.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$6,407,884,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Fire Services Department.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2019 will be 11 072 permanent posts. It is expected that there will be a net increase of 116 permanent posts in 2019–20. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2019–20, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$4,753,877,000.

4 An analysis of the financial provision under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is as follows:

	2017–18 (Actual) (\$'000)	2018–19 (Original) (\$'000)	2018–19 (Revised) (\$'000)	2019–20 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	4,353,641	4,555,823	4,663,392	4,765,565
- Allowances.....	85,907	64,729	102,532	103,933
- Job-related allowances.....	104,998	118,347	123,420	126,238
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	21,022	25,140	23,075	26,187
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	280,461	326,051	326,279	388,238
Departmental Expenses				
- Specialist supplies and equipment.....	77,070	131,249	98,094	129,689
- General departmental expenses.....	752,290	792,996	865,706	868,034
	5,675,389	6,014,335	6,202,498	6,407,884

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

5 Provision of \$407,102,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents an increase of \$322,372,000 (380.5%) over the revised estimate for 2018–19. This reflects the increased cash flow requirement for fire appliances and equipment.

6 Provision of \$259,885,000 under *Subhead 690 Town ambulances (block vote)* is for the procurement of new and replacement of town ambulances each costing up to \$10 million. The increase of \$145,283,000 (126.8%) over the revised estimate for 2018–19 is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for town ambulances.

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Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2018	Revised estimated expenditure for 2018–19	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Capital Account						
603		<i>Plant, vehicles and equipment</i>				
	8BY	Replacement of Fireboat No. 7	98,260	8,327	16,900	73,033
	8CQ	Replacement of diving support speedboat No. 2	16,000	1,139	12,221	2,640
	8CR	Replacement of diving support speedboat No. 3	16,000	1,139	12,221	2,640
	8CU	Three replacement turntable ladders F15, F282 and F283 and acquisition of a turntable ladder for Tsim Tung Fire Station.....	53,334	8,824	25,371	19,139
	8F5	One replacement aerial ladder platform F722	16,940	—	100	16,840
	8F6	Acquisition of a fireboat.....	125,000	—	1,687	123,313
	8F7	Acquisition of a fast rescue vessel	40,000	—	486	39,514
	8F8	Replacement of Fireboat No. 2	97,500	—	335	97,165
	8F9	Replacement of Command Boat No. 1.....	120,000	—	—	120,000
	8FA	Replacement of Command Boat No. 2.....	120,000	—	—	120,000
	8FB	One replacement crash fire tender R22Ω.....	10,496Ω	—	—	10,496
	8FC	One replacement crash fire tender R42Ω.....	10,496Ω	—	—	10,496
	8FD	Acquisition of a high reach extendable turret for the Airside Fire Station (West Support Area) for Three-Runway SystemΩ.....	12,775Ω	—	—	12,775
	8FE	Acquisition of two rapid intervention vehicles for the Airside Fire Station (West Support Area) for Three-Runway SystemΩ.....	20,892Ω	—	—	20,892
		Total	757,693	19,429	69,321	668,943

Ω This is a new item, funding for which is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2019.