

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(3) 425/18-19

Ref. : CB(3)/M/OR

Tel : 3919 3300

Date : 28 February 2019

From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

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**Council meeting of 20 March 2019**

**Proposed resolution under the Public Finance Ordinance**

The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury will move the proposed resolution in **Appendix 1** under section 7(1) of the Public Finance Ordinance (Cap. 2) at the above meeting. The President has directed that the proposed resolution be printed in the terms in which it was handed in on the Agenda of the Council.

2. The speech which the Secretary will deliver when moving the proposed resolution is in **Appendix 2**.

(Dora WAI)  
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

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## Public Finance Ordinance

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### Resolution

(Under section 7(1) of the Public Finance Ordinance (Cap. 2))

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**Resolved that—**

1. Authority is given for a sum not exceeding \$131,081,699,000 to be charged on the general revenue for expenditure on the services of the Government in respect of the financial year commencing on 1 April 2019.
2. Subject to this Resolution, the sum so charged may be expended against the heads of expenditure as shown in the Estimates of Expenditure 2019–20 laid before the Legislative Council on 27 February 2019 or, if the Estimates are changed under the provisions of the Public Finance Ordinance (Cap. 2) as applied by section 7(2) of that Ordinance, as shown in the Estimates as so changed.
3. Expenditure in respect of any head of expenditure must not exceed the aggregate of the amounts authorized by paragraph 4 to be expended in respect of the subheads in that head of expenditure.
4. Expenditure in respect of each subhead in a head of expenditure must not exceed—
  - (a) for an Operating Account Recurrent subhead of expenditure, an amount equivalent to—

- (i) except if the subhead is listed in Schedule 1 to this Resolution, 20% of the provision shown in the Estimates in respect of that subhead; or
  - (ii) if the subhead is listed in Schedule 1 to this Resolution, the percentage of the provision shown in the Estimates in respect of that subhead that is specified in that Schedule in relation to that subhead; and
- (b) for an Operating Account Non-Recurrent subhead of expenditure or a Capital Account subhead of expenditure, an amount equivalent to—
  - (i) except if the subhead is listed in Schedule 2 to this Resolution, 100% of the provision shown in the Estimates in respect of that subhead; or
  - (ii) if the subhead is listed in Schedule 2 to this Resolution, the amount that is specified in that Schedule in relation to that subhead,

or such other amount, not exceeding an amount equivalent to 100% of the provision shown in the Estimates in respect of that subhead, as may in any case be approved by the Financial Secretary.

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**Schedule 1**

Head of Expenditure		Subhead		[para. 4(a)] Percentage of provision shown in Estimates
59	Government Logistics Department	225	Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Scheme—levies	100
90	Labour Department	280	Contribution to the Occupational Safety and Health Council	30
		295	Contribution to the Occupational Deafness Compensation Board	30
120	Pensions	026	Employees' compensation, injury, incapacity and death related payments and expenses	40
152	Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch)	000	Operational expenses	25

Head of Expenditure		Subhead		Percentage of provision shown in Estimates
155	Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission	000	Operational expenses	25
170	Social Welfare Department	157	Assistance for patients and their families	100
		176	Criminal and law enforcement injuries compensation	25
		177	Emergency relief	100
		179	Comprehensive social security assistance scheme	30
		180	Social security allowance scheme	30

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**Schedule 2**

				[para. 4(b)]
Head of Expenditure		Subhead		Amount
				\$
106	Miscellaneous Services	689	Additional commitments	0
		789	Additional commitments	1,000,000,000
184	Transfers to Funds	987	Payment to the Capital Investment Fund	0
		988	Payment to the Loan Fund	0

**Speech by the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury**  
**Moving the Vote on Account Resolution**  
**in the Legislative Council on 20 March 2019**

President,

I move that the motion, as printed on the Agenda, be passed.

2. The purpose of this motion is to seek funds on account to enable the Government to carry on its services between the start of the financial year on 1 April 2019 and the time when the Appropriation Ordinance 2019 comes into operation. This is a long established and essential procedure. The specific arrangements also follow those of recent years.

3. According to the Budget timetable this year, the Legislative Council will resume the Second Reading Debate of the Appropriation Bill 2019 at its meeting on 8 May 2019. As such, the Appropriation Ordinance 2019 would not come into operation before 8 May 2019. To ensure that Government will not need to halt public services, including services closely related to people's livelihood such as education, social welfare, healthcare and security due to the lack of funds when the new financial year starts on 1 April 2019, we need to propose this motion.

4. The funds on account sought under each subhead in accordance with the fourth paragraph of the resolution have been determined with reference to the relevant provisions in the 2019-20 Estimates of Expenditure. The initial amount of funds on account under each head which has incorporated requirements at subhead level is provided in the form of a footnote to this speech. In gist, the proposed funds on account should be able to cope with around two months of the Government's operational requirements. The aggregate amount of funds on account is **\$131,081,699,000** before the Appropriation Ordinance 2019 comes into operation. This represents around 25% of the total appropriation of **\$515,794,785,000** under the Appropriation Bill 2019.

5. Subject to the above aggregate amount not being exceeded, the resolution enables the Financial Secretary to vary the funds on account in respect of any subhead, but these variations must not exceed the provision for that subhead in the 2019-20 Estimates of Expenditure. To enhance transparency and in line with the established practice, we will report to the Finance Committee of this Council if the Financial Secretary has exercised this authority to meet necessary requirements.

6. The Government has to make payments for a large number of expenditure items every day. Taking the first week between 1 April and 7 April of the 2019-20 financial year as an example, numerous government expenditure items to be settled during the week include –

- (a) subvention payments of around \$5.7 billion to the Hospital Authority;
- (b) payments for the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance and Social Security Allowance totalling around \$1.4 billion to about 130 000 families and 150 000 individuals respectively;
- (c) grants of around \$1.6 billion to UGC-funded universities;
- (d) subvention payments of around \$700 million to the Vocational Training Council;
- (e) subsidies of around \$600 million to about 750 kindergartens; and
- (f) pension gratuities of around \$600 million to retired civil servants.

There are also other expenses such as salaries of contract staff as well as accounts payable to suppliers.

7. It takes at least two to three working days for government departments and banks to process a large number of payments made by autopay. It also takes some days to complete the statutory procedures after passage of the Vote on Account resolution including the gazettal process and procedures for issuance of the Vote on Account warrant, so that the Government can make payments starting from 1 April as usual. In order to ensure that Government has the necessary resources to continue those services provided to the public, I urge Members to support the motion today.

8. The vote on account will be subsumed under the Appropriation Ordinance 2019 upon its enactment and commencement.

9. President, I beg to move.

## Footnote

Head of Expenditure	Amonnt shown in the Estimates 2019-20	Initial amount of funds on account
	\$'000	\$'000
21 Chief Executive's Office .....	120,545	24,109
22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.....	1,821,273	585,691
25 Architectural Services Department.....	2,379,893	482,299
24 Audit Commission .....	182,882	36,577
23 Auxiliary Medical Service .....	107,321	21,465
82 Buildings Department .....	1,656,263	332,921
26 Census and Statistics Department.....	817,789	163,958
27 Civil Aid Service.....	124,004	25,992
28 Civil Aviation Department.....	1,157,484	242,644
33 Civil Engineering and Development Department.....	3,040,354	616,313
30 Correctional Services Department.....	4,228,478	928,140
31 Customs and Excise Department .....	4,943,961	1,163,569
37 Department of Health.....	13,300,751	2,754,070
92 Department of Justice .....	2,329,724	466,393
39 Drainage Services Department .....	2,935,378	652,022
42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department .....	1,176,102	657,846
44 Environmental Protection Department .....	6,959,161	2,833,624
45 Fire Services Department.....	7,161,588	2,035,281
49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department .....	8,434,909	1,965,036
46 General Expenses of the Civil Service .....	4,106,593	821,319



<b>Head of Expenditure</b>	<b>Amonnt shown in the Estimates 2019-20</b>	<b>Initial amount of funds on account</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
166 Government Flying Service .....	735,367	451,200
48 Government Laboratory.....	538,622	157,706
59 Government Logistics Department.....	568,389	196,071
51 Government Property Agency .....	2,227,077	505,417
143 Government Secretariat: Civil Service Bureau.....	733,778	146,756
152 Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch) .....	3,171,327	1,297,778
55 Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch) .....	903,866	715,990
144 Government Secretariat: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau .....	766,755	156,514
138 Government Secretariat: Development Bureau (Planning and Lands Branch) .....	1,015,941	779,189
159 Government Secretariat: Development Bureau (Works Branch).....	708,532	214,026
156 Government Secretariat: Education Bureau .....	67,944,609	15,076,784
137 Government Secretariat: Environment Bureau.....	1,795,931	1,725,987
148 Government Secretariat: Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (Financial Services Branch).....	872,510	684,393
147 Government Secretariat: Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch) .....	305,311	88,279
139 Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) .....	178,304	35,661

<b>Head of Expenditure</b>	<b>Amonnt shown in the Estimates 2019-20</b>	<b>Initial amount of funds on account</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
140 Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau (Health Branch).....	71,181,690	15,493,355
53 Government Secretariat: Home Affairs Bureau .....	2,265,617	716,621
135 Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Bureau.....	751,008	430,474
155 Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission .....	820,794	280,990
141 Government Secretariat: Labour and Welfare Bureau .....	937,078	281,481
47 Government Secretariat: Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.....	806,504	174,864
142 Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary .....	1,030,663	232,136
96 Government Secretariat: Overseas Economic and Trade Offices .....	531,495	106,715
151 Government Secretariat: Security Bureau .....	819,927	383,538
158 Government Secretariat: Transport and Housing Bureau (Transport Branch).....	337,151	120,807
60 Highways Department .....	4,175,667	845,333
63 Home Affairs Department .....	3,260,297	801,058
168 Hong Kong Observatory .....	381,364	98,886
122 Hong Kong Police Force.....	20,682,101	4,426,535
62 Housing Department .....	357,962	71,593
70 Immigration Department.....	6,152,753	1,254,839

<b>Head of Expenditure</b>	<b>Amonnt shown in the Estimates 2019-20</b>	<b>Initial amount of funds on account</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
72 Independent Commission Against Corruption .....	1,167,704	243,396
121 Independent Police Complaints Council.....	95,852	19,171
74 Information Services Department.....	545,982	109,755
76 Inland Revenue Department .....	1,721,902	344,381
78 Intellectual Property Department.....	185,778	37,156
79 Invest Hong Kong .....	144,307	28,862
174 Joint Secretariat for the Advisory Bodies on Civil Service and Judicial Salaries and Conditions of Service.....	48,349	9,670
80 Judiciary.....	2,109,451	423,211
90 Labour Department .....	2,062,711	473,564
91 Lands Department.....	3,017,840	610,432
94 Legal Aid Department .....	1,590,214	318,251
112 Legislative Council Commission.....	954,274	224,374
95 Leisure and Cultural Services Department .....	9,916,896	2,385,558
100 Marine Department .....	1,623,339	428,351
106 Miscellaneous Services .....	33,152,664	1,379,966
180 Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration .....	51,627	10,326
114 Office of The Ombudsman .....	122,055	24,411
116 Official Receiver' s Office .....	223,201	44,689
120 Pensions .....	39,596,125	7,932,825

<b>Head of Expenditure</b>	<b>Amonnt shown in the Estimates 2019-20</b>	<b>Initial amount of funds on account</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
118 Planning Department .....	788,965	170,830
136 Public Service Commission Secretariat.....	27,694	5,539
160 Radio Television Hong Kong .....	1,021,055	258,792
162 Rating and Valuation Department .....	689,846	137,970
163 Registration and Electoral Office .....	796,430	159,766
169 Secretariat, Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance .....	25,158	5,032
170 Social Welfare Department.....	85,115,708	25,925,654
181 Trade and Industry Department .....	929,794	610,759
186 Transport Department .....	6,727,739	1,853,236
188 Treasury .....	432,932	86,587
190 University Grants Committee .....	22,500,710	6,260,142
194 Water Supplies Department .....	8,674,551	1,749,445
173 Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency .....	18,717,089	13,975,353
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	508,720,785	131,007,699
184 Transfers to Funds.....	7,074,000	74,000
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Total.....	515,794,785	131,081,699
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\* The initial amount of funds on account under Head 106 includes \$1 billion under Subhead 789 Additional commitments for contingency.