

Head 150 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: HOUSING BUREAU

Controlling officer: the Secretary for Housing will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2002–03 **\$43.2m**

Establishment ceiling 2002–03 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 49 non-directorate posts at 31 March 2002 reducing by one post to 48 posts at 31 March 2003 **\$21.2m**

In addition there will be an estimated ten directorate posts at 31 March 2002 and at 31 March 2003.

Controlling Officer's Report

Programme

Housing

This programme contributes to Policy Area 31: Housing (Secretary for Housing).

Detail

	2000–01 (Actual)	2001–02 (Approved)	2001–02 (Revised)	2002–03 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	40.4	43.1 (+6.7%)	45.1 (+4.6%)	43.2 (–4.2%)

Aim

2 The policy objective is to achieve better housing for all. The specific aims comprise reduction in the number of inadequately housed people, assistance to households to gain access to adequate and affordable housing, and encouragement of home ownership in the community.

Brief Description

3 The Housing Bureau's main responsibility is to formulate strategic policies on the provision of housing in the public and private sectors; and to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of these policies by government departments, the Hong Kong Housing Authority, the Hong Kong Housing Society and private developers. This involves:

- assessing housing demand regularly;
- monitoring the supply of land and supporting infrastructure for housing, and maintaining a mechanism for solving problems affecting flat production;
- creating the conditions to enable the private sector to make the fullest possible contribution towards meeting the demand for housing;
- monitoring the implementation of subsidised home ownership schemes and loan schemes to enable those in the relevant income groups to buy their own homes;
- monitoring the progress of providing public housing at reasonable rents to those who cannot afford any other type of housing; and
- devising initiatives to address the housing requirements of groups in special need.

4 It has met or is on schedule to meet all specific targets set for 2001–02, and has continued to make good progress in achieving its overall policy objective.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2002–03

5 During 2002–03, the bureau will:

- enable 50 000 public rental housing flats, rental allowances, subsidised home ownership flats and subsidised home ownership loans to be offered annually to eligible households;
- develop a balanced set of criteria for the future allocation of sites for subsidised home ownership flats;
- reach agreement with the Housing Authority on the determination of an appropriate long-term ratio between subsidised home ownership flats and loans;
- in conjunction with the Housing Authority, review the appropriateness and sensitivity of the existing formula for determining the eligibility criteria for Home Ownership Scheme flats and to adjust the criteria appropriately;
- examine the feasibility of a pilot scheme to provide rental allowances to eligible non-elderly households as an alternative means of providing public rental flats;

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- in conjunction with the Housing Authority, review the arrangements for determining and adjusting public housing rent;
- assess and monitor the adequacy of sales information made available to purchasers of uncompleted residential flats on a voluntary basis, and re-assess the need for legislative control on sales information; and
- assist in the overall review of the institutional framework for public housing being led by the Chief Secretary for Administration.

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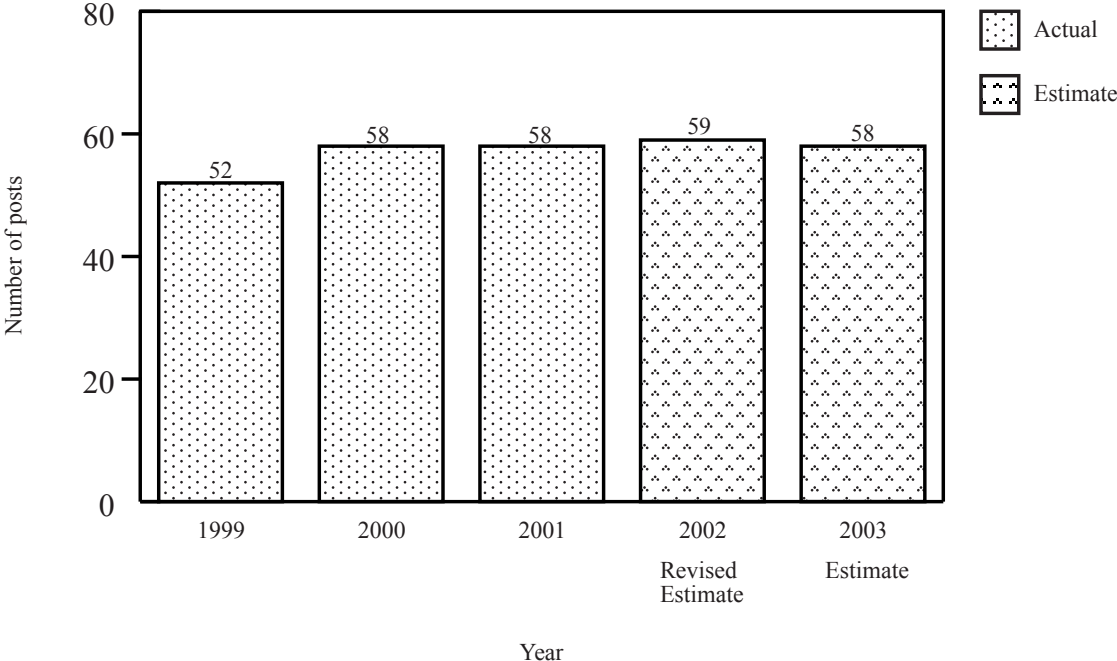
ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2000-01 (Actual) (\$m)	2001-02 (Approved) (\$m)	2001-02 (Revised) (\$m)	2002-03 (Estimate) (\$m)
Housing	40.4	43.1 (+6.7%)	45.1 (+4.6%)	43.2 (-4.2%)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2002-03 is \$1.9 million (4.2%) lower than the revised estimate for 2001-02. This is mainly due to the deletion of one post under the Enhanced Productivity Programme and reduced requirement for allowances.

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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2000-01	Approved estimate 2001-02	Revised estimate 2001-02	Estimate 2002-03	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Recurrent Account					
I — Personal Emoluments					
001	Salaries	34,481	36,376	38,433	36,637
002	Allowances	1,412	1,432	1,798	1,527
007	Job-related allowances	28	28	20	18
	Total, Personal Emoluments	35,921	37,836	40,251	38,182
III — Departmental Expenses					
149	General departmental expenses	4,127	4,229	4,049	4,361
	Total, Departmental Expenses	4,127	4,229	4,049	4,361
	Total, Recurrent Account	40,048	42,065	44,300	42,543
Capital Account					
II — Other Non-Recurrent					
838	Minor consultancy studies (block vote)	—	1,000	820	700
	General other non-recurrent	350	—	—	—
	Total, Other Non-Recurrent	350	1,000	820	700
	Total, Capital Account	350	1,000	820	700
	Total Expenditure	40,398	43,065	45,120	43,243

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2002–03 for the salaries and expenses of the Housing Bureau is \$43,243,000. This represents a decrease of \$1,877,000 against the revised estimate for 2001–02 and an increase of \$2,845,000 over actual expenditure in 2000–01.

Recurrent Account

Personal Emoluments

2 Provision of \$38,182,000 for personal emoluments represents a decrease of \$2,069,000 against the revised estimate for 2001–02.

3 The establishment at 31 March 2002 will be 59 permanent posts. It is expected that there will be deletion of one permanent post in 2002–03.

4 Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated powers create or delete non-directorate posts during 2002–03, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$21,240,000.

5 Provision of \$1,527,000 under *Subhead 002 Allowances* is for standard allowances and the consolidated overtime allowance for Chauffeur grade. The decrease of \$271,000 (15.1%) against the revised estimate for 2001–02 is mainly due to reduced requirement for acting allowance and more stringent control over the use of overtime allowance.

6 Provision of \$18,000 under *Subhead 007 Job-related allowances* is for standard job-related allowances. The decrease of \$2,000 (10.0%) against the revised estimate for 2001–02 is mainly due to reduced requirement for dialect allowance.

Departmental Expenses

7 Provision of \$4,361,000 under *Subhead 149 General departmental expenses* represents an increase of \$312,000 (7.7%) over the revised estimate for 2001–02. This is mainly due to the additional recurrent expenses for the computer system and payment of gratuity to a contract staff.

Capital Account

Other Non-Recurrent

8 Provision of \$700,000 under *Subhead 838 Minor consultancy studies (block vote)* is for engaging consultants to conduct housing-related minor studies and surveys. The decrease of \$120,000 (14.6%) against the revised estimate for 2001–02 is mainly due to reduced requirement for studies and surveys to be commissioned in 2002–03.