

Head 62 — HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Controlling officer: the Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing) will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2003–04 **\$378.0m**

Controlling Officer's Report

Following the re-organisation of the Housing Branch of the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau and the Housing Department, the Housing Authority will with effect from 1 April 2003 be responsible for the funding of activities on formulation of strategic housing policies previously undertaken by the Housing Bureau.

Programme

Squatter and Temporary Housing Clearance and Squatter Control

This programme contributes to Policy Area 31: Housing (Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands).

Detail

	2001–02 (Actual)	2002–03 (Approved)	2002–03 (Revised)	2003–04 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	481.2	387.6 (–19.5%)	384.8 (–0.7%)	378.0 (–1.8%)

Aim

2 Under this Programme, the Housing Department acts on behalf of the Government and clears land for development or other purposes. It prevents new squatting on government land and leased agricultural land and maintains in good repair the facilities provided under the department's Squatter Area Improvement Programme.

Brief Description

3 The work involves:

- surveying of domestic structures, business undertakings etc. within the clearance zone;
- screening of clearerees;
- deterring, detecting and demolishing new illegal structures;
- assisting the Environmental Protection Department to demolish compensated livestock structures on government land;
- assisting the Lands Department to enforce compliance with terms and conditions of licences;
- providing assistance in rehousing the occupants of unauthorised rooftop structures displaced by the Buildings Department's enforcement actions;
- registration of victims of natural disasters for subsequent rehousing and arrangement of temporary shelter; and
- maintenance of squatter area improvement facilities.

4 In 2002, squatting activities were kept under tight control and any new squatting was suppressed in a timely manner. Major clearance projects completed in the year included clearance of Tai Tsoi Yuen, Cheung Chau and land acquisition for Yuen Long south extension - road works in Areas 13 and 14.

5 The key performance measures in respect of this programme are:

Targets

		2001 (Actual)	2002 (Actual)	2003 (Plan)
screening of domestic clearerees' rehousing eligibility after clearance announcement.....	not more than 8 weeks	100%	100%	100%
arrival time of staff at the scene upon receiving message of occurrence of natural disasters.....	within 1 hour	100%	100%	100%

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Indicators

	2001 (Actual)	2002 (Actual)	2003 (Estimate)
no. of people rehoused as a result of programmed squatter and unauthorised rooftop structure clearances or emergency clearances following natural disaster	3 500	2 400	9 400
squatter population	218 900	190 800	189 500
urban.....	14 400	—#	—
non-urban (excluding Islands areas).....	204 500φ	190 800	189 500
no. of illegal structures demolished.....	860†	460	520
no. of Temporary Housing Area residents rehoused	1 000	—β	—
no. of Cottage Area residents rehoused.....	1 400	—β	—

Squatter control duties in urban areas taken up by the Lands Department w.e.f. 1.4.2002.

φ Figure includes population in Islands areas taken up by the Lands Department w.e.f. 1.4.2002.

† Figure includes demolition of illegal structures in Hong Kong, Kowloon & Islands areas.

β Clearance of Temporary Housing Areas and Cottage Areas was completed in the end of 2001.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2003–04

6 Two major clearance tasks, the Deep Bay Link clearance project for construction of Shenzhen Western Corridor, (of which the target date originally scheduled in December 2002 was deferred to June 2003) and the clearance for construction of Kowloon-Canton Railway Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line will be carried out in 2003. Transfer of squatter control duties to the Lands Department will be reviewed in 2003.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2001-02 (Actual) (\$m)	2002-03 (Approved) (\$m)	2002-03 (Revised) (\$m)	2003-04 (Estimate) (\$m)
Squatter and Temporary Housing Clearance and Squatter Control	481.2	387.6 (-19.5%)	384.8 (-0.7%)	378.0 (-1.8%)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2003-04 is \$6.8 million (1.8%) lower than the revised estimate for 2002-03. This is mainly due to decrease in operating expenses and deletion of eight posts in 2003-04.

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Sub-head (Code)		Actual expenditure 2001-02	Approved estimate 2002-03	Revised estimate 2002-03	Estimate 2003-04
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Recurrent Account					
000	Operational expenses.....	—	—	—	378,010
003	Recoverable salaries and allowances (General).....				3,548,167
	<i>Deduct</i> reimbursements.....	—	—	—	—
					<i>Cr.3,548,167</i>
	Clearance and squatter control	481,200	387,593	384,767	—
	Total, Recurrent Account.....	481,200	387,593	384,767	378,010
	Total Expenditure.....	481,200	387,593	384,767	378,010

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2003–04 for the expenses of those activities of the Housing Department that are funded from General Revenue is \$378,010,000. This represents a decrease of \$6,757,000 against the revised estimate for 2002–03 and of \$103,190,000 against actual expenditure in 2001–02.

Recurrent Account

2 Provision of \$378,010,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries and allowances of staff and other operating expenses incurred by the Housing Department under the programme of squatter and temporary housing clearance and squatter control.

3 Gross provision of \$3,548,167,000 under *Subhead 003 Recoverable salaries and allowances (General)* is for salaries and allowances for civil servants working in the Housing Authority. Expenditure under this subhead is reimbursed by the Authority. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated powers create or delete non-directorate posts during 2003–04. For posts funded by the Authority, and before exercising his delegated powers, the controlling officer is required to seek the advice of the Departmental Establishment Committee and, subsequently, to obtain the endorsement of the Authority that the proposals and their financial implications are acceptable.