

## Head 23 — AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE

**Controlling officer:** the Chief Staff Officer of the Auxiliary Medical Service will account for expenditure under this Head.

**Estimate 2021–22** ..... **\$114.1m**

**Establishment ceiling 2021–22** (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 98 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2021 and as at 31 March 2022 ..... **\$36.8m**

In addition, there will be an estimated one directorate post as at 31 March 2021 and as at 31 March 2022.

### Controlling Officer's Report

#### Programme

##### Auxiliary Medical Service

This programme contributes to Policy Area 9: Internal Security (Secretary for Security).

#### Detail

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Original)	2020–21 (Revised)	<b>2021–22 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	98.1	121.0	89.5 (–26.0%)	<b>114.1</b> (+27.5%)
				(or –5.7% on 2020–21 Original)

#### Aim

2 The aim is to augment the existing medical and health services for maintaining the health care and well-being of the territory, especially in times of emergency, having regard to internal security considerations.

#### Brief Description

3 The Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) is responsible for providing volunteer medical services to assist the Department of Health, the Hospital Authority and the Fire Services Department during emergency situations, as well as supplementary volunteer medical services to government departments and outside agencies during peace time. It also provides paramedic training to disciplined services staff and other appropriate civil servants to enhance their operational efficiency and effectiveness.

4 In 2020–21, the Department continued to provide an effective volunteer medical service to complement the regular services of various government departments and outside agencies. During the year, the following services were provided to meet demands:

- a large variety of services to combat COVID-19 such as conveyance of close contacts, medical service at quarantine centres, evacuation of institutes, enforcement of Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599), etc;
- non-emergency ambulance transfer service to clients referred by Department of Health clinics, Hospital Authority clinics, Social Welfare Department institutions and private hospitals;
- manning of first aid posts at public functions and country parks;
- certificate courses on paramedic training and short courses on first aid for civil servants;
- manning 19 methadone clinics for Department of Health, and providing clinical service to this category of patients;
- life-guard services for the Leisure and Cultural Services Department;
- training for the AMS volunteers in connection with various contingency plans related to internal security; and
- through AMS Cadet Corps which has 2 324 cadets as at 31 December 2020, providing youth aged between 12 and 17 specific training in discipline and skills, and an orientation towards civic duty.

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5 The key performance measures are:

### *Targets*

	Target man-hour	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Plan)
general regular training .....	240 000	188 233	88 892 $\lambda$	<b>240 000</b>
recruit training .....	28 000	22 488	6 431 $\lambda$	<b>28 000</b>
centralised training .....	50 000	35 842	44 834	<b>50 000</b>
civil service training .....	152 000	164 056	52 624 $\lambda$	<b>152 000</b>
supplementary services .....	243 000	256 947	359 008 $\Psi$	<b>243 000</b>
non-emergency ambulance transfer service .....	54 000	52 345	55 567	<b>54 000</b>
cadet induction training .....	23 000	32 992	6 016 $\lambda$	<b>23 000</b>
cadet general regular training .....	130 000	161 246	14 241 $\lambda$	<b>130 000</b>
cadet centralised training .....	55 000	69 104	6 103 $\lambda$	<b>55 000</b>
cadet exercise and visit .....	55 000	67 374	5 951 $\lambda$	<b>55 000</b>

$\Psi$  The substantial increase is due to the heavy involvement in COVID-19 related operations.

### *Indicators*

	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Estimate)
emergency services			
no. of man-hours for emergency duties (serious traffic accidents, disastrous fires, typhoons, rainstorms and major epidemics) .....	1 931	4 744 $\Omega$	<b>4 500</b>
no. of occasions of call-outs/operations in emergency duties .....	2	42 $\diamond$	<b>10</b>
members attending regular training .....	4 146	3 931 $\lambda$	<b>4 450</b>
new members recruited .....	308	87 $\lambda$	<b>420</b>
new cadets recruited .....	1 031	188 $\lambda$	<b>700<math>\Delta</math></b>
members attending centralised training .....	5 796	8 091	<b>7 500</b>
civil servants attending paramedic training			
first aid qualifying course .....	5 561	1 778 $\lambda$	<b>6 000</b>
other certificate/short courses .....	2 017	1 056 $\lambda$	<b>1 800</b>
supplementary services			
response to ambulance calls .....	1 203	1 410	<b>1 100</b>
coverage at public functions .....	2 539	549 $\lambda$	<b>2 400</b>
cases treated on country park duty .....	2 319	3 361	<b>3 600</b>
response to non-emergency ambulance transfer requests .....	9 864	10 330	<b>12 000</b>

$\lambda$  The figures were seriously affected by COVID-19 as recruitment of both adult and cadet members, training, regular first aid duties and public functions were disrupted.

$\Omega$  The figure includes two typhoon manning operations conducted in 2020 during which Typhoon Signal No. 8 or above was issued for around 26 hours.

$\diamond$  The figure includes first aid operation during the social unrest in early 2020.

$\Delta$  The figure includes 400 new recruits due to expansion of size of cadet corps and 300 replacements due to graduation and resignation.

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22*

6 During 2021–22 the Department will:

- enhance the volunteers' operational efficiency and emergency preparedness for infectious disease pandemic;
- provide paramedic training to cope with infectious disease prevention and control;
- continue to recruit members to the cadet corps with the ultimate goal of recruiting a force of 3 000 cadets; and
- provide decontamination training to AMS members on proper response to nuclear emergencies at various discharge points and contact points in remote areas as well as monitoring centres territory-wide.

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### ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2019–20 (Actual) (\$m)	2020–21 (Original) (\$m)	2020–21 (Revised) (\$m)	2021–22 (Estimate) (\$m)
<b>Programme</b>				
Auxiliary Medical Service .....	98.1	121.0	89.5 (–26.0%)	114.1 (+27.5%)
				(or –5.7% on 2020–21 Original)

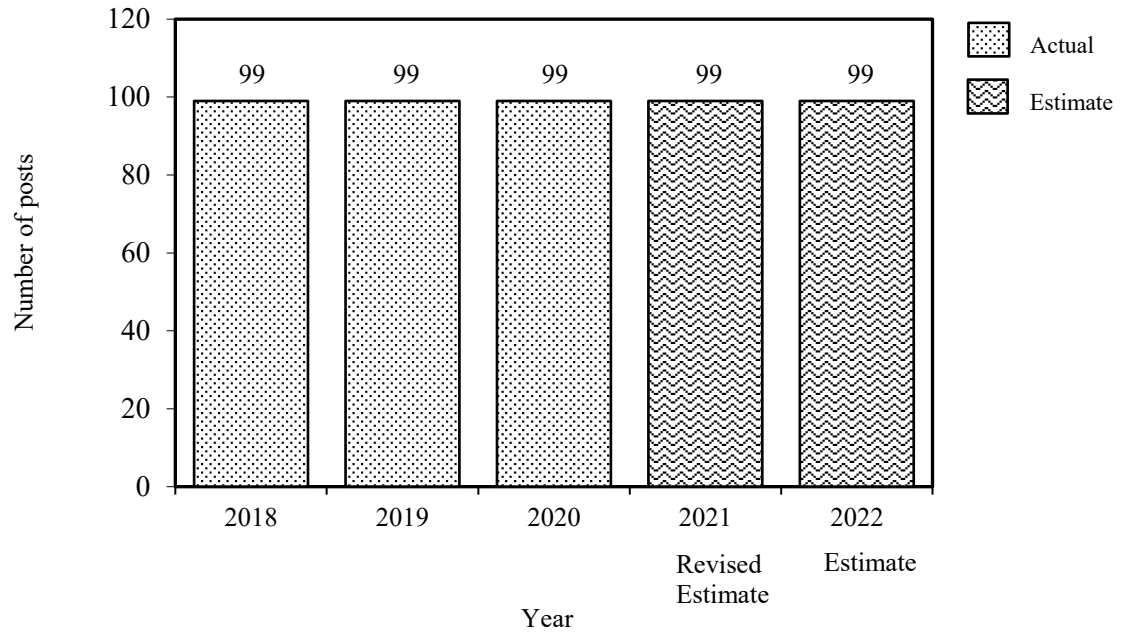
#### Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2021–22 is \$24.6 million (27.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020–21. This is mainly due to suspension of most training and activities in 2020–21 and resumption of training and activities to normal level for the auxiliary services in 2021–22.

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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2019-20	Approved estimate 2020-21	Revised estimate 2020-21	Estimate 2021-22	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
<b>Operating Account</b>					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses .....	98,110	120,125	88,669	<b>111,165</b>
	Total, Recurrent.....	98,110	120,125	88,669	<b>111,165</b>
	Total, Operating Account .....	98,110	120,125	88,669	<b>111,165</b>
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<b>Capital Account</b>					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	—	826	826	<b>2,943</b>
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	—	826	826	<b>2,943</b>
	Total, Capital Account.....	—	826	826	<b>2,943</b>
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	Total Expenditure .....	98,110	120,951	89,495	<b>114,108</b>
		<u>98,110</u>	<u>120,951</u>	<u>89,495</u>	<u><b>114,108</b></u>

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### Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2021–22 for the salaries and expenses of the Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) is \$114,108,000. This represents an increase of \$24,613,000 over the revised estimate for 2020–21 and \$15,998,000 over the actual expenditure in 2019–20.

#### *Operating Account*

##### Recurrent

**2** Provision of \$111,165,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the AMS. The increase of \$22,496,000 (25.4%) over the revised estimate for 2020–21 is mainly due to suspension of most training and activities in 2020–21 and resumption of training and activities to normal level for the auxiliary services in 2021–22.

**3** The establishment as at 31 March 2021 will be 99 posts. No change in establishment is expected in 2021–22. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2021–22, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$36,825,000.

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

	2019–20 (Actual) (\$'000)	2020–21 (Original) (\$'000)	2020–21 (Revised) (\$'000)	<b>2021–22 (Estimate) (\$'000)</b>
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries .....	38,851	38,715	38,730	<b>41,117</b>
- Allowances .....	314	790	790	<b>376</b>
- Job-related allowances.....	41	69	69	<b>69</b>
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution .....	145	127	100	<b>84</b>
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution .....	2,362	3,033	2,789	<b>3,516</b>
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses .....	20,222	25,591	25,591	<b>18,640</b>
Other Charges				
- Pay and allowances for the auxiliary services.....	34,383	49,128	20,000	<b>44,691</b>
- Training expenses for the auxiliary services.....	1,792	2,672	600	<b>2,672</b>
	98,110	120,125	88,669	<b>111,165</b>

#### *Capital Account*

##### Plant, Equipment and Works

**5** Provision of \$2,943,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents an increase of \$2,117,000 (256.3%) over the revised estimate for 2020–21. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for replacement of plant and equipment in 2021–22.