

## Head 23 — AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE

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

**Estimate 2025–26** ..... **\$120.3m**

**Establishment ceiling 2025–26** (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 97 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2025 reducing by one post to 96 posts as at 31 March 2026... **\$41.7m**

In addition, there will be an estimated one directorate post as at 31 March 2025 and as at 31 March 2026.

### Controlling Officer's Report

#### Programme

##### Auxiliary Medical Service

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

#### Detail

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	<b>2025–26 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	103.5	117.9	114.3 (–3.1%)	<b>120.3</b> (+5.2%)
				(or +2.0% on 2024–25 Original)

#### Aim

**2** The aim is to augment the existing medical and health services for maintaining the healthcare 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. Apart from operational duties, AMS is also committed to various youth development programmes via its Cadet Corps service.

**4** In 2024–25, AMS 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:

- non-emergency ambulance transfer service to clients referred by public clinics, district health centres, private hospitals, institutions under the Social Welfare Department, Fire Services Department, and Hospital Authority;
- first aid bicycle services at cycling tracks over the territory;
- manning of 18 methadone clinics for the Department of Health, and clinical service to this category of patients;
- manning of first aid posts at public functions and country parks;
- life-guard services for the Leisure and Cultural Services Department;
- certificate courses on paramedic training and short courses on first aid and paramedics for civil servants;
- training for the AMS volunteers in connection with various contingency plans related to internal security; and
- through the Cadet Corps which has 1 939 cadets as at 31 December 2024, provided national security education, health-care oriented training, whole-person development training for the youth aged between 12 and 18 by the enhanced “Health Awareness and Promotion Programme for Youth to University”. The programme aims at equipping the youth with professional medical and health knowledge and skills to facilitate their career planning.

## Head 23 — AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE

5 The key performance measures are:

### *Targets*

	Target man-hour	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Plan)
training for adult member@.....	248 500	204 045	230 107 $\Lambda$	<b>248 500</b>
training for cadet@.....	67 600	43 581	61 078 $\Lambda$	<b>67 600</b>
civil service training.....	152 000	158 364	164 112	<b>152 000</b>
non-emergency ambulance transfer service.....	80 000 $\alpha$	56 730	87 689	<b>80 000</b>
supplementary services.....	243 000	329 577	294 164	<b>243 000</b>

@ In response to the recommendations of the Audit Commission, the target “training for adult member” replaced the previous targets “recruit training”, “general regular training” and “centralised training” and the target “training for cadet” replaced the previous targets “cadet induction training”, “cadet general regular training”, “cadet centralised training” and “cadet exercise and visit” as from 2024 to provide an overview of the diversified training provided by AMS to different categories of members.

$\Lambda$  The actual number in 2024 was lower than the target mainly due to the lower-than-expected adult members/cadets recruited during the year. With the implementation of various measures to enhance the recruitment and retention of adult members/cadets, a higher number is expected in 2025.

$\alpha$  The target was revised from 54 000 man-hours to 80 000 man-hours as from 2024 as more drivers and members had been recruited and deployed since July 2023 to enhance the non-emergency ambulance transfer service.

### *Indicators*

	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
no. of training events for adult member $\tau$ .....	975	1 195	<b>950</b>
civil servants attending paramedic training			
first aid qualifying course.....	5 967	6 323	<b>6 000</b>
other certificate/short courses.....	2 409 $\Delta$	3 050 $\Delta$	<b>1 800<math>\Delta</math></b>
new members recruited.....	324	440	<b>420</b>
new cadets recruited.....	485	715	<b>700</b>
no. of non-emergency ambulance transfer patients handled $\P$ .....	9 455	12 605	<b>10 000</b>
supplementary services.....			
deployment of ambulance shift for operations $\beta$ .....	1 163	890	<b>1 100</b>
coverage at public functions.....	712	903	<b>700</b>
cases treated on country park and cycling track duties $\Omega$ .....	2 475	2 477	<b>2 600</b>
emergency services			
no. of man-hours for emergency duties (serious traffic accidents, disastrous fires, typhoons, rainstorms and major epidemics).....	10 686 $\eta$	2 151 $\phi$	<b>4 500</b>
no. of occasions of call-outs/operations in emergency duties.....	18 $\eta$	4 $\phi$	<b>10</b>

$\tau$  The indicator replaced the previous indicators “members attending regular training” and “members attending centralised training” as from 2024 to better reflect the number of training events conducted.

$\Delta$  The higher numbers in 2023 and 2024 were mainly due to the additional certificate/short courses organised to make up for those disrupted during the COVID-19 pandemic. The estimated number in 2025 is expected to resume to normal level.

$\P$  The indicator replaced the previous indicator “response to non-emergency ambulance transfer requests” as from 2024 to better reflect the number of patients handled.

$\beta$  Revised description of the previous indicator “response to ambulance calls” as from 2024.

$\Omega$  Revised description of the previous indicator “cases treated on country park duty” as from 2024.

$\eta$  The figures include three typhoon manning operations and three emergency evacuation operations conducted in 2023.

$\phi$  The figures include two typhoon manning operations in 2024.

## Head 23 — AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE

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### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26*

6 During 2025–26 AMS will:

- collaborate with various organisations to explore and identify opportunity to recruit new cadets and adult members;
- promote personal development and a sense of achievement to retain cadets and adult members;
- continue to review cadet training with a view to improving the attractiveness to the youth and work closely with higher education institutions to encourage the cadets' participation in various training and activities;
- enhance non-emergency ambulance transfer service to serve the needy groups; and
- continue to provide national security education to cadets and adult members.

**Head 23 — AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE**

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**ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION**

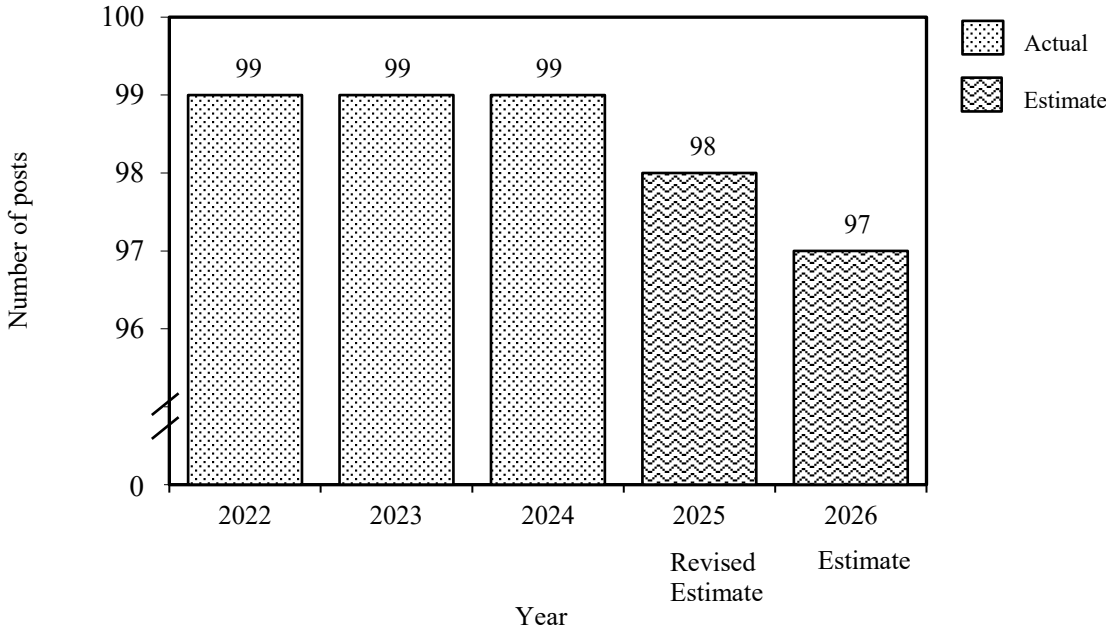
<b>Programme</b>	2023–24 (Actual) (\$m)	2024–25 (Original) (\$m)	2024–25 (Revised) (\$m)	<b>2025–26 (Estimate) (\$m)</b>
Auxiliary Medical Service .....	103.5	117.9	114.3 (–3.1%)	<b>120.3 (+5.2%)</b>
				<b>(or +2.0% on 2024–25 Original)</b>

**Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision**

Provision for 2025–26 is \$6.0 million (5.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the increased provisions for salaries and pay and allowances for the auxiliary services, partly offset by the decreased provision for operating expenses. There will be a net decrease of one post in 2025-26.

**Head 23 — AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE**

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



**Head 23 — AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE**

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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2023–24	Approved estimate 2024–25	Revised estimate 2024–25	<b>Estimate 2025–26</b>	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	<b>\$'000</b>	
<b>Operating Account</b>					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses .....	101,992	116,133	112,466	<b>119,119</b>
	Total, Recurrent.....	<u>101,992</u>	<u>116,133</u>	<u>112,466</u>	<u><b>119,119</b></u>
	Total, Operating Account .....	<u>101,992</u>	<u>116,133</u>	<u>112,466</u>	<u><b>119,119</b></u>
<hr/>					
<b>Capital Account</b>					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	1,507	1,732	1,800	<b>1,172</b>
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	<u>1,507</u>	<u>1,732</u>	<u>1,800</u>	<u><b>1,172</b></u>
	Total, Capital Account.....	<u>1,507</u>	<u>1,732</u>	<u>1,800</u>	<u><b>1,172</b></u>
<hr/>					
	Total Expenditure .....	<u>103,499</u>	<u>117,865</u>	<u>114,266</u>	<u><b>120,291</b></u>
		<u><u>103,499</u></u>	<u><u>117,865</u></u>	<u><u>114,266</u></u>	<u><u><b>120,291</b></u></u>

## Head 23 — AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE

### Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2025–26 for the salaries and expenses of the Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) is \$120,291,000. This represents an increase of \$6,025,000 over the revised estimate for 2024–25 and \$16,792,000 over the actual expenditure in 2023–24.

#### Operating Account

##### Recurrent

**2** Provision of \$119,119,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of AMS.

**3** The establishment as at 31 March 2025 will be 98 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of one post in 2025–26. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2025–26, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$41,667,000.

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

	2023–24 (Actual) (\$'000)	2024–25 (Original) (\$'000)	2024–25 (Revised) (\$'000)	<b>2025–26 (Estimate) (\$'000)</b>
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries .....	39,892	44,143	42,399	<b>47,759</b>
- Allowances .....	473	432	385	<b>400</b>
- Job-related allowances.....	233	138	53	<b>139</b>
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution .....	180	169	230	<b>242</b>
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution .....	3,982	4,804	4,178	<b>5,324</b>
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses .....	20,881	24,674	27,115	<b>23,125</b>
Other Charges				
- Pay and allowances for the auxiliary services.....	35,224	39,899	36,232	<b>40,256</b>
- Training expenses for the auxiliary services.....	1,127	1,874	1,874	<b>1,874</b>
	101,992	116,133	112,466	<b>119,119</b>

#### Capital Account

##### Plant, Equipment and Works

**5** Provision of \$1,172,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents a decrease of \$628,000 (34.9%) against the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirement for replacement of equipment in 2025–26.