

Head 27 — CIVIL AID SERVICE

Controlling officer: the Chief Staff Officer of the Civil Aid Service will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2025–26	\$154.9m
Establishment ceiling 2025–26 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 106 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2025 reducing by one post to 105 posts as at 31 March 2026.....	\$50.0m

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

Civil Aid Service

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

Detail

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	144.5	153.4	154.4 (+0.7%)	154.9 (+0.3%)
				(or +1.0% on 2024–25 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to provide an effective auxiliary force, which has 3 002 officers/members as at 31 December 2024, to augment the Government’s regular emergency services in emergency situations, to provide civic services to government departments and outside agencies, and to provide young people with the opportunity to develop self-confidence and civic-mindedness through participation in the Civil Aid Service (CAS) Cadet Corps.

Brief Description

3 CAS is responsible for providing emergency and civic services to government departments, outside agencies and the general public. This work involves:

- providing support to the Government’s regular emergency services in counter-disaster activities, mountain search and rescue, and countryside protection duties;
- providing crowd control and crowd management services in major public functions;
- assisting people in need of help in country parks and hiking trails;
- staging performances to enhance public attention at major campaigns or activities organised by government departments and outside agencies; and
- providing, through the CAS Cadet Corps which has 3 961 cadets as at 31 December 2024, youth aged between 12 and 17 with specific training in discipline and skills, and an orientation towards civic duty.

4 In 2024–25, CAS continued to provide efficient and effective auxiliary emergency and civic services to government departments and outside agencies. These services included typhoon duties; flood rescue; mountain search and rescue; countryside fire fighting and protection; community services; training on mountain rescue, hiking safety and work safety at height; and contingency response training to handle radiological incidents.

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5 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target man-hour	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Plan)
providing standby teams on Sundays and general holidays for immediate deployment to handle emergencies (mountain search and rescue, countryside fire fighting)	32 000	37 000	36 000	32 000
providing crowd management services for major public functions	78 000	69 000	74 000	78 000
patrolling the country parks and hiking trails	44 000	44 000	44 000	44 000
providing performances for the public in major government campaigns and activities	6 000	5 300	6 000	6 000
providing full-time and part-time training for CAS members through the CAS Training School	72 000	75 000	78 000	72 000
providing full-time and part-time training for CAS cadets in skills and discipline through the CAS Training School	85 000	62 000	76 000 ^β	85 000
providing recreational and social activities for CAS cadets	125 000	97 000	100 000 ^β	125 000
providing community services by CAS cadets	20 000	11 000	13 000 ^β	20 000
providing training on mountain rescue, hiking safety and work safety at height for staff of government departments and non-governmental organisations and public education	30 000 [#]	48 000 [@]	48 000 [@]	30 000

^β The actual figures in 2024 were lower than the target mainly due to the lower-than-expected demand for training, recreational, social activities and community services in 2024. The figures are expected to increase in 2025 with the gradual increase in number of cadets.

[#] The target is revised from 20 000 man-hours to 30 000 man-hours as from 2025 given the increased demand for public education programmes from schools and non-governmental organisations in recent years.

[@] The actual figures were higher than the target mainly due to the increased demand for public education programmes from schools and non-governmental organisations.

Indicators

	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
no. of occasions of call-out operations in emergency duties			
mountain search and rescue	76	43 ^Δ	60
countryside fire fighting	2	13	10
typhoons, flooding, mudslip and others	7	9	10
no. of occasions of crowd management and other civic duties	144	201 ^Ω	180
no. of performances in major government campaigns and activities	45	62 ^Λ	50
no. of full-time and part-time training courses for CAS members through the CAS Training School	214	208	220
no. of full-time and part-time training courses for CAS cadets through the CAS Training School	179	176	170
no. of recreational and social activities for CAS cadets	276	340 ^μ	300

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	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
no. of community services activities by CAS cadets	101	100	100
no. of training courses/activities on mountain rescue, hiking safety and work safety at height for staff of government departments and non-governmental organisations and public education.....	89	100	110

Δ The lower number in 2024 was mainly due to the decrease in the call-out number of mountain search and rescue.

Ω The higher number in 2024 was mainly due to the increase in number of public events that required crowd management service.

^ The higher number in 2024 was mainly due to more opportunities for performances by CAS.

μ The increased number in 2024 was mainly due to more activities were arranged for CAS cadets.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

6 During 2025–26, CAS will continue to provide staff and auxiliary officers with training conducted by professional bodies in disaster management, operating automated external defibrillators, tree cutting and flood rescue. To further enhance the promotion of youth engagement, CAS will continue to conduct public education programmes for the younger generations in Hong Kong; and will implement the “CAS Cadet Attachment Programme” to provide opportunity to CAS cadets to strengthen the understanding and gain hands-on experience in the operations of CAS through job shadowing. CAS also collaborates with the Hong Kong Baptist University and the Education University of Hong Kong to provide their students, as well as CAS adult members and cadets, with multi-faceted learning and exchange opportunities.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

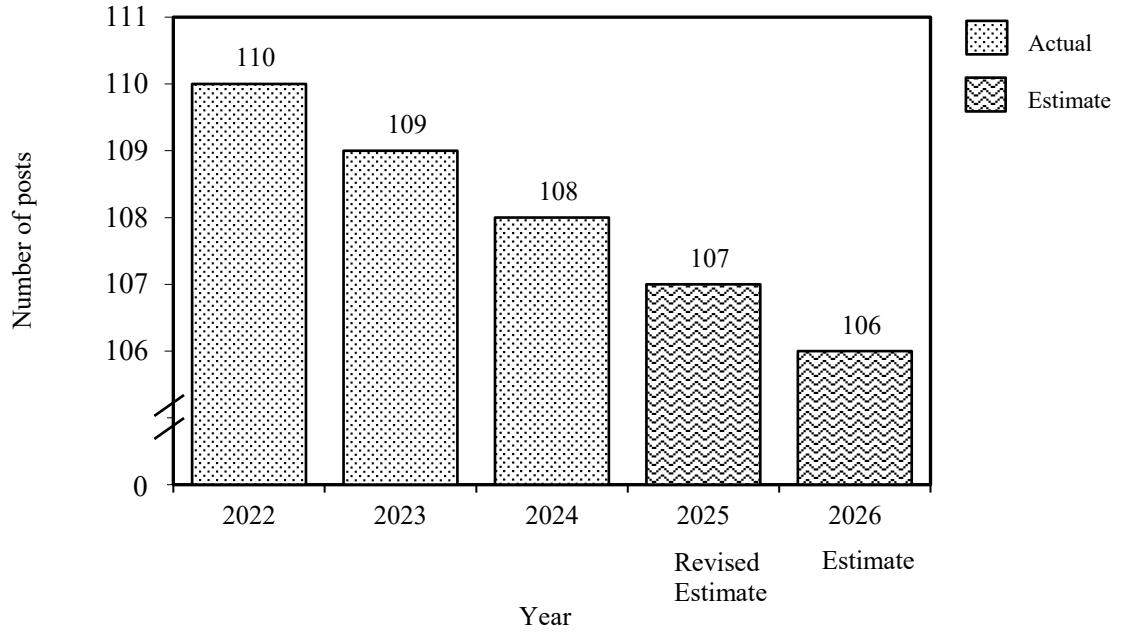
Programme	2023–24 (Actual) (\$m)	2024–25 (Original) (\$m)	2024–25 (Revised) (\$m)	2025–26 (Estimate) (\$m)
Civil Aid Service	144.5	153.4	154.4 (+0.7%)	154.9 (+0.3%)
				(or +1.0% on 2024–25 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2025–26 is \$0.5 million (0.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the increased provision for salaries and the increased cash flow requirement for procurement/replacement of equipment, partly offset by decreased provision for departmental expenses. There will be a net decrease of one post in 2025–26.

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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2023–24	Approved estimate 2024–25	Revised estimate 2024–25	Estimate 2025–26	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	140,945	144,396	145,445	145,816
	Total, Recurrent.....	140,945	144,396	145,445	145,816
	Total, Operating Account	140,945	144,396	145,445	145,816
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Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	3,514	8,997	8,997	9,105
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	3,514	8,997	8,997	9,105
	Total, Capital Account.....	3,514	8,997	8,997	9,105
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	Total Expenditure	144,459	153,393	154,442	154,921
		<u>144,459</u>	<u>153,393</u>	<u>154,442</u>	<u>154,921</u>

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2025–26 for the salaries and expenses of the Civil Aid Service (CAS) is \$154,921,000. This represents an increase of \$479,000 over the revised estimate for 2024–25 and \$10,462,000 over the actual expenditure in 2023–24.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$145,816,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the CAS.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2025 will be 107 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 \$49,990,000.

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)	2025–26 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	46,701	48,737	49,830	52,309
- Allowances	538	796	550	611
- Job-related allowances.....	153	124	50	127
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	127	249	125	126
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	3,594	3,901	4,211	4,704
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	45,521	42,644	40,624	32,891
Other Charges				
- Pay and allowances for the auxiliary services.....	39,180	44,145	46,316	51,029
- Training expenses for the auxiliary services.....	5,131	3,800	3,739	4,019
	140,945	144,396	145,445	145,816