

Sewage Services

OPERATING ACCOUNTS

2023-24

Sewage Services

OPERATING ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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Sewage Services

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2023-24

ACTIVITIES

- Volume of sewage treated is 1,033 million cubic metres, representing an increase of 1.2% over the previous year.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

- Revenue increased by 18.0%
- Expenditure increased by 4.5%
- Deficit increased by 0.3%
- Deficit as percentage of expenditure decreased from 76.3% in 2022-23 to 73.2% in 2023-24

Sewage Services

OPERATING ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 \$M	2023 \$M
Revenue	2	1,307.9 *	1,108.2 *
Expenditure	3	<u>4,876.2</u>	<u>4,667.2</u>
Deficit	1(g) & 4	<u>(3,568.3)</u>	<u>(3,559.0)</u>
<i>Representing :</i>			
Subsidy by Government	4	<u>3,568.3</u>	<u>3,559.0</u>

* The figures represent the net revenue, after deducting the concessions of \$299.6M in 2023-24 and \$555.9M in 2022-23 for Sewage Charge and Trade Effluent Surcharge.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Deficit as percentage of expenditure	73.2%	76.3%
Increase/(Decrease) in deficit (\$M)	9.3	189.7

COST RECOVERY RATES FOR SEWAGE CHARGE AND TRADE EFFLUENT SURCHARGE (EXCLUDING DEPRECIATION)

	Sewage Charge \$M	Trade Effluent Surcharge \$M	2024 Total \$M	2023 Total \$M
Revenue	1,190.4	62.1	1,252.5	1,051.2
Expenditure (excluding depreciation)	2,667.7	419.3	3,087.0	2,903.8
% of cost recovery	44.6%	14.8%	40.6%	36.2%

The annexed notes form part of these accounts.

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 \$M	2023 \$M
Net assets employed			
Fixed assets	1(b), (c) & (d) and 5	63,405.2	60,273.3
Current assets	1(e) and 6	568.3	416.6
Current liabilities	7	(19,762.8)	(17,776.9)
Net current liabilities		(19,194.5)	(17,360.3)
		<u>44,210.7</u>	<u>42,913.0</u>
Financed by			
Public capital account	1(g) and 8	<u>44,210.7</u>	<u>42,913.0</u>

The annexed notes form part of these accounts.

Sewage Services

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Accounting Policies

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| (a) Basis of Accounting | The accounts have been prepared on the historical cost basis of accounting modified to include notional receipts and payments. Although the Sewage Services has incurred deficits since inception, the accounts are prepared on a going concern basis on the assumption that the deficit will be met by a corresponding subsidy from the Government. |
| (b) Fixed Assets | <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) No cost is included for land.(ii) By a Resolution passed by the Legislative Council on 26 July 1995, the assets comprising the public sewerage systems and sewage disposal facilities under the control of the Director of Drainage Services on 31 March 1995 as set out in the document titled “ Inventory of Public Sewerage Systems and Sewage Disposal Facilities as at 31 March 1995” were appropriated to the Sewage Services Trading Fund (SSTF) at a zero valuation. Upon closure of the SSTF, these assets have been reverted to the Government. The net book values of these assets are shown in note 5.(iii) All sewerage projects, or part thereof, are accounted for as fixed assets upon commissioning and subject to depreciation.(iv) All fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation except projects under development which are stated at cost. |
| (c) Projects under Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) For capital projects, the costs include the actual direct expenditure, and staff costs for design, planning and supervision during the construction period.(ii) Expenditure incurred on all sewerage projects funded under the expenditure vote of Drainage Services Department and other works departments is capitalised as projects under development. Upon commissioning of the projects or part thereof, the related expenditure incurred will be transferred to the respective categories of fixed assets. |

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

- (d) Depreciation
- (i) Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis to amortise the cost of fixed assets less residual value over their estimated useful lives.
- (ii) The annual rates of depreciation used are -
- | | |
|--|-------------|
| Sewage treatment works | |
| • Civil works | 2% |
| • Electrical and mechanical equipment | 6.7% |
| Pumping stations | |
| • Civil works | 2% |
| • Electrical and mechanical equipment | 4% |
| • Rising mains | 4% |
| Infrastructural assets | |
| • Tunnel sewers | 1% |
| • Sewers | 2.5% |
| • Outfalls | 2% |
| Sludge treatment facilities | 2% |
| Leasehold improvements | 33% - 35% |
| Computer systems, equipment and vehicles | 12.5% - 20% |
- (iii) No depreciation is provided on projects under development.
- (e) Stocks in Hand
- Stocks in hand are valued at cost using the weighted average cost method subject to any write-off or write-down that may be necessary to reflect the individual losses in value as a result of obsolescence, damage and/or deterioration. Stocks include mechanical, electronic and electrical spare parts, and chemicals.
- (f) Employee Benefits
- Employee benefits including salaries, gratuities, pensions, housing benefits and annual leave are accrued and recognised as an expense in the year in which the associated services are rendered by employees.
- (g) Deficit
- Since the Sewage Services does not have a separate legal identity, its financial resources form part of the General Revenue. All deficits are deemed to be financed by the General Revenue and adjusted to the Public Capital Account.

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

2. Revenue	2024 \$M	2023 \$M
Sewage charge	1,120.7	976.3
Supplies to Government establishments	69.7	74.3
Trade effluent surcharge	62.1	0.6
Miscellaneous services	55.4	57.0
	<u>1,307.9</u>	<u>1,108.2</u>

3. Expenditure	2024 \$M	2023 \$M
Staff costs	748.9	734.3
Light and power	429.1	405.8
Sludge disposal	79.1	75.8
Chemicals	347.1	263.5
Operation and maintenance expenses	1,198.7	1,122.1
Rental and management charges	34.0	31.7
General operating expenses	305.2	327.3
Depreciation	1,734.1	1,706.7
	<u>4,876.2</u>	<u>4,667.2</u>

4. Subsidy by Government

The subsidy by the Government is to cover the costs of provision of free allowance to domestic consumers, concessions for Sewage Charge and Trade Effluent Surcharge as part of the relief measures by the Government to sustain the support for businesses, and part of the operating costs for the provision of Sewage Services.

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

5. Fixed Assets

	Sewage Treatment Works \$M	Pumping Stations \$M	Tunnel, Sewers and Outfalls \$M	Sludge Treatment Facilities \$M	Leasehold Improvements \$M	Computer Systems, Equipment and Vehicles \$M	Projects Under Development \$M	Total \$M
At Cost								
At 1 April 2023	31,610.4	9,512.1	19,109.6	5,033.6	2.4	599.2	16,554.0	82,421.3
Additions	96.9	22.7	-	6.4	-	3.0	4,737.0	4,866.0
Transfers from projects under development	708.6	594.1	267.3	-	-	16.9	(1,586.9)	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	(1.9)	-	(1.9)
At 31 March 2024	32,415.9	10,128.9	19,376.9	5,040.0	2.4	617.2	19,704.1	87,285.4
Accumulated Depreciation								
At 1 April 2023	11,030.5	3,708.8	6,130.1	704.7	2.4	571.5	-	22,148.0
Charge for the year	932.5	285.3	402.8	101.7	-	11.8	-	1,734.1
Written back on Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	(1.9)	-	(1.9)
At 31 March 2024	11,963.0	3,994.1	6,532.9	806.4	2.4	581.4	-	23,880.2
Net Book Value								
At 31 March 2024	20,452.9	6,134.8	12,844.0	4,233.6	-	35.8	19,704.1	63,405.2
<i>At 1 April 2023</i>	<i>20,579.9</i>	<i>5,803.3</i>	<i>12,979.5</i>	<i>4,328.9</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>27.7</i>	<i>16,554.0</i>	<i>60,273.3</i>

(a) As referred to in note 1(b)(ii), the assets which were appropriated to the SSTF at a zero valuation and reverted to the Government upon its closure are included in the accounts as zero value. These assets have a net book value as at 1 April 2023 of \$1,828.7M. After taking into account depreciation of \$115.9M for 2023-24, the net book value of these assets as at 31 March 2024 was \$1,712.8M.

(b) The capital expenditure relating to (i) the feasibility study for the relocation of Sha Tin, Sham Tseng and Sai Kung sewage treatment works into caverns and (ii) investigation, design as well as related construction for relocating Sha Tin sewage treatment works into cavern has been excluded.

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	2024	2023
	\$M	\$M
6. Current Assets		
Stocks in hand	218.2	196.2
Debtors	350.1	220.4
	568.3	416.6
7. Current Liabilities		
	2024	2023
	\$M	\$M
Creditors	144.6	161.3
Current account with Treasury	19,618.2	17,615.6
	19,762.8	17,776.9
8. Public Capital Account	The Public Capital Account represents Government's investment in Sewage Services.	
	2024	2023
	\$M	\$M
Balance as at 1 April	42,913.0	41,377.3
Deficit for the year	(3,568.3)	(3,559.0)
Addition	4,866.0	5,094.7
	44,210.7	42,913.0
9. Commitments	Outstanding commitments as at 31 March 2024 and 31 March 2023 not provided for in the operating accounts were as follows -	
	2024	2023
	\$M	\$M
(i) Capital works projects, property, plant and equipment and capital subventions	32,052.3	34,877.0
(ii) Non-recurrent expenditure	-	-
(iii) Investments	-	-
(iv) Loans and non-recurrent grants	-	-
	32,052.3	34,877.0