

Sewage Services

OPERATING ACCOUNTS

2018-19

February 2020

Sewage Services

OPERATING ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

	<i>Page</i>
<i>Review of the year</i>	1
<i>Operating Account</i>	2
<i>Statement of Financial Position</i>	3
<i>Notes to the Accounts</i>	4 – 10

Sewage Services

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2018-19

ACTIVITIES

- Volume of sewage treated is 1,028 million cubic metres, representing an increase of 1.8% over the previous year.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

- Revenue increased by 1.8%
- Expenditure increased by 4.7%
- Deficit after taxation increased by 6.7%
- Deficit after taxation as percentage of expenditure increased from 59.1% in 2017-18 to 60.3% in 2018-19

Sewage Services

OPERATING ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

		2019	2018
		Total	Total
	Note	\$M	\$M
Revenue	2	1,614.7	1,585.6
Expenditure	3	4,062.4	3,880.3
Deficit before taxation		(2,447.7)	(2,294.7)
Taxation	1(f) & 4	-	-
Deficit after taxation	1(h) & 5	(2,447.7)	(2,294.7)
<i>Representing :</i>			
Subsidy by Government	5	2,447.7	2,294.7

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Deficit after taxation as percentage of expenditure	60.3%	59.1%
Increase/(Decrease) in deficit (\$M)	153.0	(125.7)

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

	Sewage Charge	Trade Effluent Surcharge	2019 Total	2018 Total
	\$M	\$M	\$M	\$M
Revenue	1,323.1	241.0	1,564.1	1,539.7
Expenditure (excluding depreciation)	2,078.1	387.4	2,465.5	2,288.9
% of cost recovery	63.7%	62.2%	63.4%	67.3%

The annexed notes form part of these accounts.

Sewage Services

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2019

	Note	2019 \$M	2018 \$M
Net assets employed			
Fixed assets	1(b), (c) & (d) and 6	50,763.7	49,974.4
Current assets	1(e) and 7	566.2	565.0
Current liabilities	8	(11,624.4)	(10,722.6)
Net current liabilities		(11,058.2)	(10,157.6)
		<u>39,705.5</u>	<u>39,816.8</u>
Financed by			
Public capital account	1(h) and 9	<u>39,705.5</u>	<u>39,816.8</u>

The annexed notes form part of these accounts.

Sewage Services

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounting	<p>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.</p>
(b) Fixed Assets	<p>(i) No cost is included for land.</p> <p>(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 6.</p> <p>(iii) All sewerage projects, or part thereof, are accounted for as fixed assets upon commissioning and subject to depreciation.</p> <p>(iv) All fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation except projects under development which are stated at cost.</p>
(c) Projects under Development	<p>(i) For capital projects, the costs include the actual direct expenditure, and staff costs for design, planning and supervision during the construction period.</p> <p>(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.</p>

Sewage Services

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)	<p>The annual rates of depreciation used are -</p> <p>Sewage treatment works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civil works 2%• Electrical and mechanical equipment 6.7% <p>Pumping stations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civil works 2%• Electrical and mechanical equipment 4%• Rising mains 4% <p>Infrastructural assets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tunnel sewers 1%• Sewers 2.5%• Outfalls 2% <p>Sludge treatment facilities 2%</p> <p>Leasehold improvements 33% - 35%</p> <p>Computer systems, equipment and vehicles 12.5% - 20%</p>
	(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) Taxation	(i)	Notional profits tax is provided, where necessary, based on the expected taxable surplus for the year, using tax rates prevailing at the reporting period end date, and any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous years. No provision for notional profits tax has been made in the accounts as the Sewage Services has no taxable surplus for the year.
	(ii)	Deferred tax is recognised, where appropriate, for all material temporary differences between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the accounts. Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that taxable surplus will be available against which the temporary differences can be utilised. No provision for deferred tax in respect of all material temporary differences has been made in the accounts as the Sewage Services has no taxable surplus against which the temporary differences can be utilised.

Sewage Services

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

(g) 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.
(h) 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.

Sewage Services

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

2. Revenue

	2019	<i>2018</i>
	Total	<i>Total</i>
	\$M	<i>\$M</i>
Sewage charge	1,257.0	<i>1,232.8</i>
Supplies to Government establishments	66.1	<i>63.4</i>
Trade effluent surcharge	241.0	<i>243.5</i>
Miscellaneous services	50.6	<i>45.9</i>
	<u>1,614.7</u>	<i><u>1,585.6</u></i>

3. Expenditure

	2019	<i>2018</i>
	Total	<i>Total</i>
	\$M	<i>\$M</i>
Staff costs	684.0	<i>640.7</i>
Light and power	323.8	<i>309.2</i>
Sludge disposal	74.7	<i>68.2</i>
Chemicals	180.8	<i>191.0</i>
Operation and maintenance expenses	959.3	<i>863.8</i>
Rental and management charges	35.2	<i>28.2</i>
General operating expenses	257.6	<i>233.1</i>
Depreciation	1,547.0	<i>1,546.1</i>
	<u>4,062.4</u>	<i><u>3,880.3</u></i>

4. Taxation

	2019	<i>2018</i>
	\$M	<i>\$M</i>
Notional profits tax charge for the year	<u>-</u>	<i><u>-</u></i>
Deferred tax assets/(liabilities) not recognised in respect of -		
Unused tax losses	<u>46,401.6</u>	<i><u>42,702.5</u></i>
Material temporary differences arising from depreciation allowances on fixed assets	<u>(19,787.4)</u>	<i><u>(18,535.3)</u></i>

5. Subsidy by Government

The subsidy by the Government is to cover the costs of provision of free allowance to domestic consumers and part of the operating costs for the provision of Sewage Services.

Sewage Services

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

6. 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 2018	27,708.5	7,283.7	17,497.1	4,991.9	2.4	537.5	5,944.4	63,965.5
Additions	51.5	22.5	-	6.1	-	17.3	2,239.2	2,336.6
Transfers from projects under development	141.8	188.4	325.8	-	-	6.0	(662.0)	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	(3.5)	-	(3.5)
At 31 March 2019	27,901.8	7,494.6	17,822.9	4,998.0	2.4	557.3	7,521.6	66,298.6
Accumulated Depreciation								
At 1 April 2018	6,683.6	2,446.1	4,217.0	199.7	2.4	442.3	-	13,991.1
Charge for the year	825.4	223.0	364.0	100.2	-	34.4	-	1,547.0
Written back on disposals	-	-	-	-	-	(3.2)	-	(3.2)
At 31 March 2019	7,509.0	2,669.1	4,581.0	299.9	2.4	473.5	-	15,534.9
Net Book Value								
At 31 March 2019	20,392.8	4,825.5	13,241.9	4,698.1	-	83.8	7,521.6	50,763.7
<i>At 1 April 2018</i>	<i>21,024.9</i>	<i>4,837.6</i>	<i>13,280.1</i>	<i>4,792.2</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>95.2</i>	<i>5,944.4</i>	<i>49,974.4</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 at zero value. These assets have a net book value as at 1 April 2018 of \$2,408.3M. After taking into account depreciation of \$115.9M for 2018-19, the net book value of these assets as at 31 March 2019 was \$2,292.4M.
- (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 and design for relocating Sha Tin sewage treatment works into cavern has been excluded.

Sewage Services

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

7. Current Assets

	2019 \$M	2018 \$M
Stocks in hand	232.9	239.6
Debtors	333.3	325.4
	<u>566.2</u>	<u>565.0</u>

8. Current Liabilities

	2019 \$M	2018 \$M
Creditors	97.7	81.1
Current account with Treasury	11,526.7	10,641.5
	<u>11,624.4</u>	<u>10,722.6</u>

9. Public Capital Account

The Public Capital Account represents Government's investment in the Sewage Services.

	2019 \$M	2018 \$M
Balance as at 1 April	39,816.8	39,825.9
Deficit for the year	(2,447.7)	(2,294.7)
Addition	2,336.4	2,285.6
Balance as at 31 March	<u>39,705.5</u>	<u>39,816.8</u>

Sewage Services

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

10. Commitments

Outstanding commitments as at 31 March 2019 and 31 March 2018 not provided for in the operating account were as follows -

	2019	<i>2018</i>
	\$M	<i>\$M</i>
(i) Capital works projects, property, plant and equipment and capital subvention	15,084.5	<i>12,002.2</i>
(ii) Non-recurrent expenditure	-	-
(iii) Investments	-	-
(iv) Loans and non-recurrent grants	-	-
	<u>15,084.5</u>	<i><u>12,002.2</u></i>