

# Report of the Director of Audit



**Audit Commission**

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

## **Innovation and Technology Fund**

### **Independent Auditor's Report**

### **To the President of the Legislative Council**

#### *Opinion*

I certify that I have examined and audited the financial statements of the Innovation and Technology Fund set out on pages 72 to 77, which comprise the statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2024, and the statement of receipts and payments for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information.

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Innovation and Technology Fund are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Public Finance Ordinance (Cap. 2) and section 11(1) of the Audit Ordinance (Cap. 122).

#### *Basis for opinion*

I conducted my audit in accordance with section 12(1) of the Audit Ordinance and the Audit Commission auditing standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of my report. I have fulfilled the independence and other ethical responsibilities in accordance with those standards. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### *Other information*

The Director of Accounting Services is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises all the information included in the Accounts of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the year ended 31 March 2024 published by the Treasury, other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

### ***Director of Accounting Services' responsibilities for the financial statements***

In accordance with section 16(1) of the Public Finance Ordinance, the Director of Accounting Services is responsible for the compilation and supervision of the accounts of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, for the management of accounting operations and procedures, and for ensuring that all regulations, directions or instructions made or given under the Public Finance Ordinance relating thereto and in respect of the safe custody of public moneys and its accounting are complied with.

### ***Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements***

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Audit Commission auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Audit Commission auditing standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Innovation and Technology Fund's internal control; and

- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used by the Director of Accounting Services.

I communicate with the Director of Accounting Services regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Prof. LAM Chi Yuen Nelson  
Director of Audit

29 October 2024

Audit Commission  
6th Floor, High Block  
Queensway Government Offices  
66 Queensway  
Hong Kong

# Innovation and Technology Fund

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<b>Assets</b>			
Investments with the Exchange Fund	3	27,888,740	27,659,323
Cash and bank balances		1,169	32
		<u>27,889,909</u>	<u>27,659,355</u>
<b>Representing:</b>			
<b>Fund Balance</b>			
Balance at beginning of year		27,659,355	25,819,215
Surplus for the year		230,554	1,840,140
Balance at end of year	4	<u>27,889,909</u>	<u>27,659,355</u>

Notes 1 to 7 form part of these financial statements.

**Ms Susanna CHEUNG**  
Director of Accounting Services  
26 August 2024



# Innovation and Technology Fund

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<b>Cash and bank balances at beginning of year</b>		32	1
Receipts	5	6,134,397	6,483,402
Payments	6	(5,903,843)	(4,643,262)
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		230,554	1,840,140
<b>Other cash movements</b>	7	(229,417)	(1,840,109)
<b>Cash and bank balances at end of year</b>		1,169	32

Notes 1 to 7 form part of these financial statements.

**Ms Susanna CHEUNG**  
Director of Accounting Services  
26 August 2024



# Innovation and Technology Fund

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated)

### 1. Purpose and Legislation

The Innovation and Technology Fund finances projects that contribute to innovation and technology upgrading in the manufacturing and service industries, as well as those that contribute to the upgrading and development of the manufacturing and service industries. It was established with effect from 30 June 1999 by a Resolution (hereinafter referred to as the Resolution) passed by the Legislative Council under section 29(1) of the Public Finance Ordinance (Cap. 2) on the same date.

### 2. Accounting Policy

The accounts of the Innovation and Technology Fund are kept on a cash basis. Transactions are recorded when moneys are received or paid.

### 3. Investments with the Exchange Fund

- (i) These are investments made under paragraph 6 of the Resolution.
- (ii) The investments represent the cost of investments together with the investment income received in the year being reported.
- (iii) The investment income is calculated, in accordance with an arrangement entered into with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority in 2007, on the basis of the average annual investment return of the Exchange Fund's Investment Portfolio for the past six years or the average annual yield of three-year government bond (replacing the three-year Exchange Fund Notes with effect from 1 January 2016) for the previous year subject to a minimum of zero percent, whichever is the higher. The rate of return for the calendar year 2023 was 3.7% (2022: 5.6%). The annual investment income is receivable on 31 December each year.

### 4. Commitments

The approved grants that were unpaid were as follows:

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Grants	<u>24,961,988</u>	<u>16,447,096</u>

# Innovation and Technology Fund

## 5. Receipts

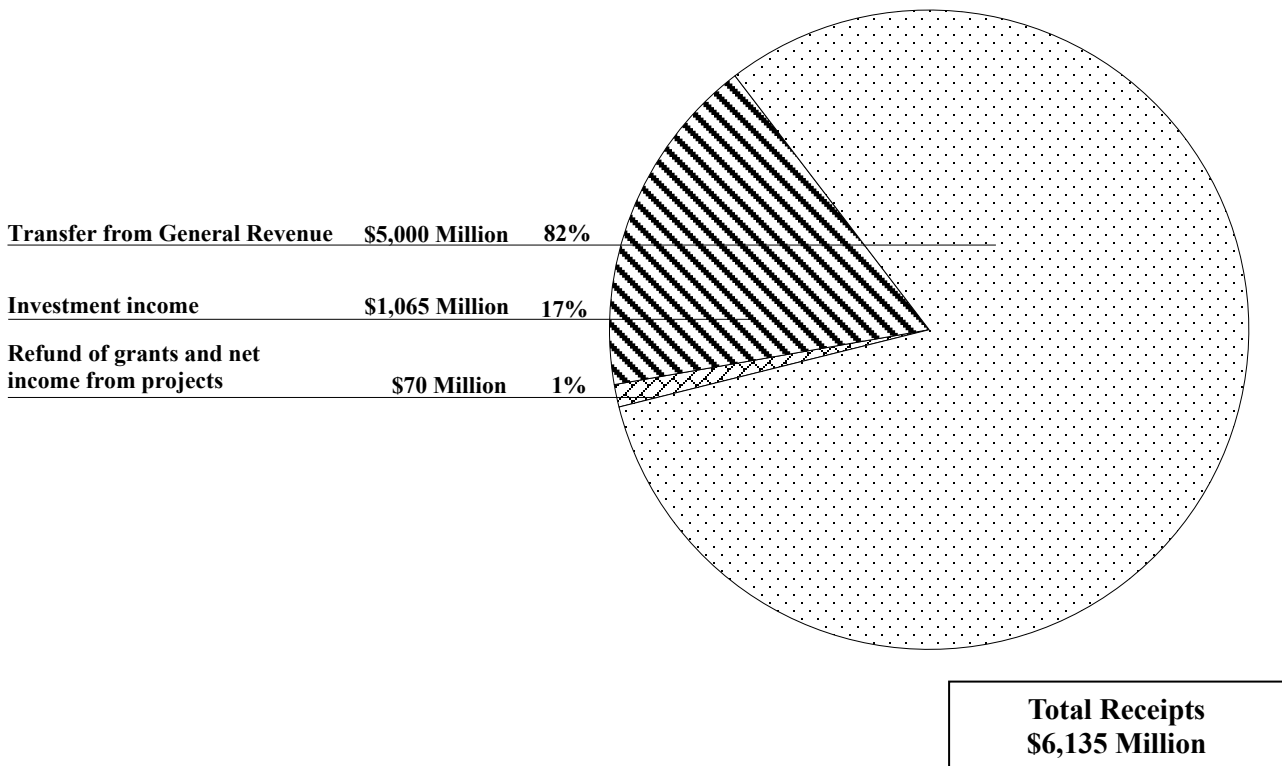
	2024		2023
	Original Estimate \$'000	Actual \$'000	Actual \$'000
Investment income			
Investments with the Exchange Fund (Note (i) below)	-	<b>1,058,312</b>	1,645,085
Others	-	<b>6,438</b>	5,421
	957,000	<b>1,064,750</b>	1,650,506
Net income from projects	91	<b>537</b>	160
Refund of grants	-	<b>69,110</b>	82,736
Transfer from General Revenue	-	<b>5,000,000</b>	4,750,000
	<u>957,091</u>	<u><b>6,134,397</b></u>	<u>6,483,402</u>

- (i) Pursuant to the Financial Secretary's directives, the investment incomes of the Fund for the calendar years 2014 and 2015 totalling \$97 million (comprising \$57 million for 2014 and \$40 million for 2015), along with the investment incomes on other parts of the fiscal reserves for the two years, were set aside and retained within the Exchange Fund for the Housing Reserve, and not received in the respective financial years 2014-15 and 2015-16. The Housing Reserve was established in December 2014. As explained in the 2015-16 Budget Speech, the Housing Reserve is to provide financial resources to meet the ten-year public housing supply target. The investment income retained within the Exchange Fund earns the same rate of investment return as stipulated in Note 3(iii). As announced in the 2019-20 Budget Speech, the Housing Reserve would be brought back to the Government's accounts and recorded as investment income over four financial years from 2019-20 to 2022-23. At the same time, \$82.37 billion (the balance of the Housing Reserve as at 31 December 2018 which included \$111 million from the Fund) was earmarked for public housing development.

During the financial year 2023-24, no amount was brought back from the Housing Reserve to the Fund (2023: \$91 million). As at 31 March 2024, there was no investment income and accumulated investment return (i.e. up to calendar year 2023) not received and recorded by the Fund and retained for the Housing Reserve (2023: Nil).

# Innovation and Technology Fund

## Analysis of Receipts for the year ended 31 March 2024



## 6. Payments

	2024		2023
	Original Estimate \$'000	Actual \$'000	Actual \$'000
Grants	6,417,180	5,903,843	4,643,262

## 7. Other Cash Movements

These are cash movements arising from changes in other assets and liabilities:

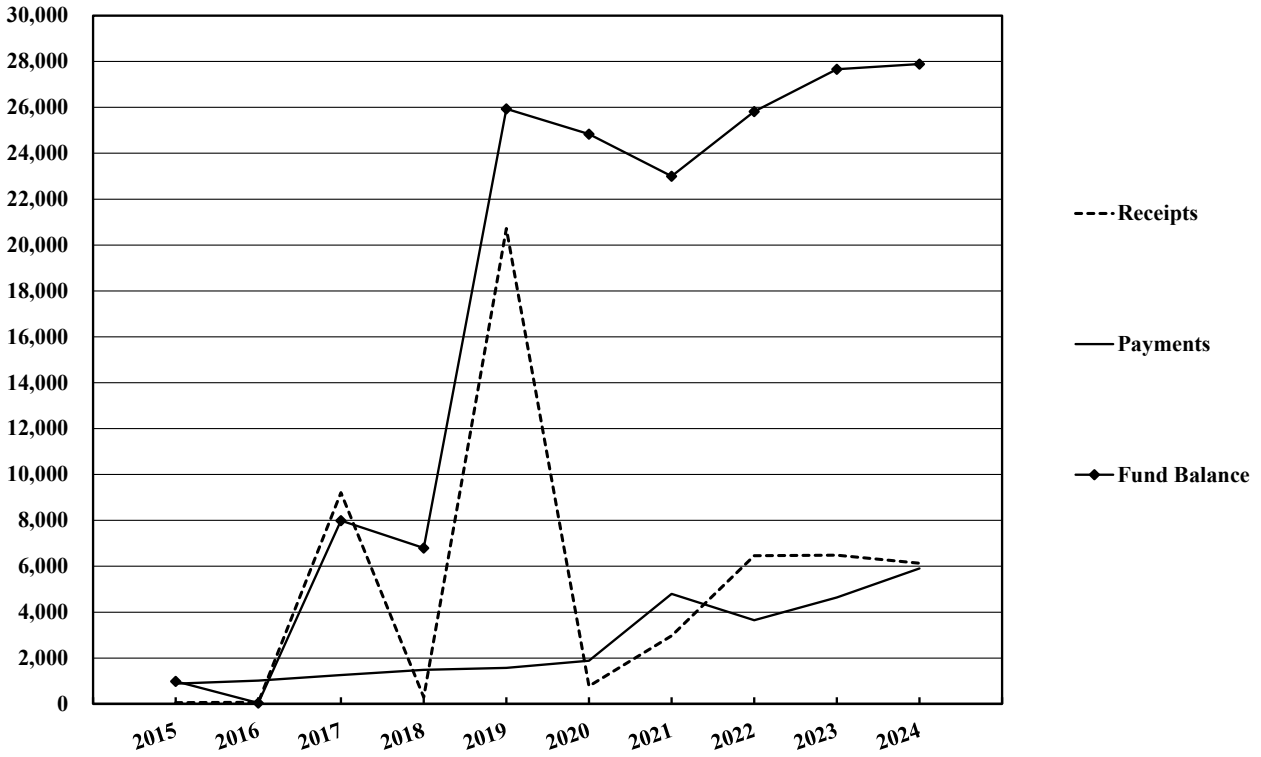
	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<b>Increase in Assets</b>		
Investments with the Exchange Fund	229,417	1,840,109



# Innovation and Technology Fund

Receipts, Payments and Fund Balance for the years ended 31 March 2015 to 2024

\$Million



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