

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB013

Question Serial No.

1178

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No & title) :

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

The estimate for 2008-09 is higher than that for 2007-08, and this is due to the effect of filling vacancies. As a matter of fact, the rehabilitation and reintegration into society of prisoners are very important and the resources in this respect have been inadequate. Does the Administration have any ideas in this area of work? How to further enhance the success rate of reintegration into society?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply :

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) strives to facilitate the return of prisoners to the community as law-abiding citizens through the provision of comprehensive rehabilitative services. Relevant services provided by CSD include pre-sentence assessment, prisoners' welfare and counselling services, psychological services, education, vocational training and supervision services. To further improve the rehabilitation of offenders, CSD is implementing a Risks and Needs Assessment and Management Protocol for Offenders, which aims to provide offenders with tailor-made rehabilitative programmes based on the results of a systematic assessment of their custodial and reoffending risks and rehabilitative needs. In addition, improvements are also being made to the education and vocational training for offenders. The estimated expenditure of CSD's re-integration programme in 2008-09 is \$473.1 million, which is about 7.5% higher than that in 2006-07.

The success rate of CSD's re-integration programme is contingent upon a number of factors. Apart from the effectiveness of the reintegration programme, other factors include the offender's family and social background, his/her response to rehabilitative and counselling services, the community's acceptance and support, and prevailing economic conditions. Therefore, in order to give rehabilitated offenders a better chance of successful reintegration into the society, CSD will continue to organise publicity and promotional programmes in collaboration with relevant non-governmental organisations in 2008-09, so as to foster greater acceptance and support by family members, employers and the public at large.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u> KWOK LEUNG MING </u>
Post Title	<u> Commissioner of Correctional Services </u>
Date	<u> 26 March 2008 </u>