

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

Reply Serial No.

SB015

Question Serial No.

1948

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No & title) :

Programme : (1) Prison Management & (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

What are the details of and expenditure for providing adequate medical, psychological and welfare services for prisoners in 2007? How many prisoners have received such services? What is the estimated expenditure in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) provides basic medical and health services for prisoners. All institutions are equipped with medical facilities manned by qualified Medical Officers and nursing staff. In 2007, the total attendance was around 1.11 million. Prisoners who require more specialised medical services are referred to the Hospital Authority.

Psychological services are offered through different programmes, covering violence prevention, mental health, sex offender evaluation and treatment, substance abuse awareness and recidivism prevention. In 2007, a total of 29 018 psychological counselling sessions were conducted for 5 328 prisoners.

Welfare and counselling services are provided for prisoners throughout their entire prison term. Regular counselling services are provided to all prisoners at least once a month to help them deal with any personal adaptation problems or family difficulties that may arise from their imprisonment. The counselling and welfare services provided include an induction course, individual and group counselling, hobby classes, etc. Prisoners are also encouraged to join suitable rehabilitative programmes to prepare for their lives after discharge. In 2007, a total of 124 868 counselling/welfare sessions were conducted for 16 751 prisoners.

The estimated expenditure incurred by CSD on medical services, psychological services, and welfare and counselling services for prisoners in 2007-08 and 2008-09 is as follows:

	<u>2007-08 Revised Estimate</u> (\$ million)	<u>2008-09 Estimate</u> (\$ million)
Medical Services	151.2	153.4
Psychological Services	27.3	30.8
Welfare and Counselling Services	44.7	47.5

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Name in block letters           KWOK LEUNG MING            
Post Title           Commissioner of Correctional Services            
Date           26 March 2008