

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

Reply Serial No.

SB022

Question Serial No.

0199

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 :

Under this programme, the numbers of psychological counselling and welfare services sessions provided and visits paid outside the institutions in 2006 and 2007 were 81 362 and 78 724 respectively, and in 2008 such number is estimated to be 79 500, which is 1 862 less than the actual number in 2006. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The Correctional Services Department provides out-centre services to discharged offenders who are required to be placed under supervision by law. These services include psychological counselling sessions, welfare services sessions and outreach visits. They are part of the Department's rehabilitative services to facilitate the discharged offenders' reintegration back into the community.

The actual number of out-centre sessions and visits for discharged offenders is affected by the number of discharged offenders under statutory supervision; individual needs for such services; and their actual performance while under supervision. As the performance of discharged offenders and their individual needs may vary from year to year, the Department mainly relies on the estimated number of discharged offenders under statutory supervision to estimate the number of out-centre sessions and visits in the coming year. The Department has hence taken into account a possible slight increase in the number of discharged offenders in 2008 under statutory supervision to work out the estimated number of out-centre services in 2008.

Signature	
Name in block letters	KWOK LEUNG MING
Post Title	Commissioner of Correctional Services
Date	20 March 2008