

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

Reply Serial No.

SB024

Question Serial No.

0207

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 :

In the estimates of expenditure for 2008-09, the Administration provides education and vocational training for young prisoners and inmates to enhance their opportunities of gainful employment on release. What are the specific details of and expenditure for these services? Has the Administration ever evaluated the effectiveness of such education and vocational training? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The Correctional Services Department provides compulsory education and vocational training programmes for young prisoners and inmates ("young offenders") to improve their academic standards and enhance their opportunities of gainful employment on release.

On education, apart from general subjects such as Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics, classes on practical subjects such as Principles of Accounts, Computer and Information Technology, Word Processing and Business Communication, Travel and Tourism, etc, are offered to young offenders. On vocational training, courses covering building decoration, electrical and mechanical services, business services, food and beverage services, etc, are provided. The majority of these vocational training courses provide a viable means for young offenders to obtain vocational accreditations.

Young offenders are encouraged to take part in both local and overseas public examinations and to acquire accreditations from recognised training institutes such as the City and Guilds and the Construction Industry Training Authority. In 2007, young offenders attempted a total of 1 125 public examination papers and trade tests with an overall passing rate of 77.2%. In the same year, 95% of young offenders discharged under supervision had successfully secured gainful employment within one month of their discharge.

The estimated expenditure for providing education and vocational training for young offenders in 2008-09 is about \$41.8 million.

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| Signature             | _____  |
| Name in block letters | <u>          KWOK LEUNG MING          </u>                       |
| Post Title            | <u>          Commissioner of Correctional Services          </u> |
| Date                  | <u>          20 March 2008          </u>                         |