

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

SB156

Question Serial No.

1865

Head: 30 Correctional Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: How many persons in custody cast their votes in the 2011 District Council Election? Did the Correctional Services Department (CSD) launch any related publicity to inform persons in custody of their rights to vote? Besides, were there standardised voting arrangements for persons in custody in different penal institutions? Please provide the details of the voting arrangements for persons in custody by CSD.

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply: According to the information provided by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO), a total of 733 persons in custody cast their votes in the 2011 District Council Election.

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) conducts briefings for newly admitted persons in custody on their rights to vote and the related arrangements during the induction programme. The Department also assists REO to conduct voter registration in correctional institutions. During the few weeks before the election, the Department will display notices on election at prominent places in correctional institutions. Persons in custody can also obtain election-related information from the press, radio and television. REO will send the guide on voting procedure and introduction to candidates to each eligible electors in custody, and the candidates can also send the electoral advertisements to them. Before the polling day, CSD will inform all persons in custody of the details of voting and their assigned time slots by notice. All persons in custody who are eligible to vote are required to sign to acknowledge that they have been informed of their time slot.

Regarding the voting arrangements of persons in custody, CSD works with REO so as to ensure that voting is carried out in a fair and impartial manner and the secrecy of the ballot can be maintained. On the polling day, based on the specified requirements, REO will set up dedicated polling stations within a designated area in correctional institutions, which will allow eligible electors in custody to cast their votes in their respective institutions. The overall polling operation of a dedicated polling station will be managed by the Presiding Officer while CSD will be responsible for the escort of electors in custody, security checking and the maintenance of order. During each time slot on the polling day, correctional officers will make use of the public address system or go to the workshop or dayroom of the respective voters in custody to inform them that they can go to the polling station set up in the institution to cast their votes.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: SIN YAT KIN

Post Title: Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date: 28 February 2012