

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

**SB218**

Question Serial No.

3443

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: What is the provision involved for persons in custody taking university courses in 2012-13? Please provide the number of persons in custody being subsidised for taking university courses and the provisions required in the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply: The Correctional Services Department provides secondary education for persons in custody under 21. We also encourage other persons in custody interested in pursuing further studies to undertake self-learning, take public examinations or enroll in university distance learning courses. In order to assist those persons in custody who want to pursue further studies but have difficulties in paying for the examination fees, tuition fees or purchase reference books for various public examinations and university distance learning courses, the Department has set up a number of education funds for their application of financial assistance. They include the New Life Foundation, the Care of Rehabilitated Offenders Association Foundation, the Prisoners' Education Subsidy Fund, as well as the Prisoners' Education Trust Fund established under Cap. 467 of Hong Kong Laws. These funds are mainly contributed by donations of charitable organisations and members of the public.

The numbers of persons in custody who took university courses in the past 3 years are set out below:

Year	No. of persons in custody who took university courses
2009	116
2010	136
2011	139

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: SIN YAT KIN

Post Title: Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date: 28 February 2012