

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

SB220

Question Serial No.

3445

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: Complaints are often received from persons in custody that the Department only issues 8 sheets of toilet paper for use by persons in custody per day. What is the provision for toilet paper in 2012-13? Will the Government increase the provision so as to supply all persons in custody with sufficient toilet paper?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply: The Correctional Services Department (CSD) is always concerned with the basic needs of persons in custody in the institutions. Given the different nature of their custody and the different physical needs of male and female, the quantity of toilet paper provided is slightly different. Currently, male convicted persons in custody receive 1 roll of toilet paper every 3 weeks while all female inmates are provided with 2 rolls each month. As for unconvicted male persons remanded under the custody of CSD, having regard to their high mobility and that most of them would use the daily commodities (including tissue paper) supplied by their family or friends, in order to avoid wastage, each remand is currently provided with 8 sheets of toilet paper per day. Having reviewed the institutional operation and allocation of resources, the Department has decided that, starting from 1 April 2012, all male persons in custody will be provided with 1 roll of toilet paper every 3 weeks. As an established practice, persons in custody may request additional toilet paper from staff if necessary. The staff will exercise discretion to handle such requests based on their actual need.

Toilet paper is one of the daily commodities of persons in custody and the expense is included under Subhead 000 Departmental Expenses - Specialist supplies and equipment. The provision for this item is around \$37.3 million in 2012-13.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: SIN YAT KIN

Post Title: Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date: 28 February 2012