

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION****SB214**

Question Serial No.

2907

Head: 30 Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title):Programme: (1) Prison ManagementControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional ServicesDirector of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14, it is stated that promotional efforts for anti-smoking among persons in custody will be stepped up. In this connection, please advise:

1. the current smoking prevalence of persons in custody?
2. how to step up promotional efforts for anti-smoking among persons in custody?
3. what are the specific expenditure involved and the detailed breakdown?
4. what are the anticipated outcomes?

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-himReply:

1. In the past five years, the percentages of persons in custody who have indicated that they have smoking habit are as follows:

Year	Gender	
	Male	Female
2008	95.2%	30.6%
2009	96.3%	31.3%
2010	94.4%	38.9%
2011	94.4%	38.9%
2012	89.6%	42.7%

2. For the sake of the health of persons in custody, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) has made proactive efforts, in line with the government's policy of tobacco control, by setting up a "Steering Committee on Smoking Control Measures in Correctional Facilities" to implement and monitor tobacco control measures. Educational talks and individual counselling are arranged for persons in custody to encourage and help them quit smoking on a voluntary basis. Through displaying publicity posters, organizing poster design competition and smoking cessation courses, the Department seeks to promote non-smoking culture among persons in custody and enhance their awareness of the harmful effects of smoking.

3. The CSD will provide nicotine patches to persons in custody participating in smoking cessation courses and deploy existing resources to carry out the related anti-smoking publicity work. In 2013-14, the estimated expenditure for purchasing nicotine patches is \$100,000.
4. In 2012, the Department has set up “smoke-free prison zone” in Tung Tau Correctional Institution on trial basis. During the year, we successfully encouraged some 730 persons in custody in that institution to join smoking cessation programme on a voluntary basis. On 1 January 2013, Tung Tau Correctional Institution was officially designated as the Department’s first “Smoke-free Penal Institution” for adult male persons in custody, which will only accommodate persons in custody who have decided not to smoke.

The CSD has been implementing similar educational counselling and promotional programmes in other penal institutions and set up “smoke-free prison zones” in individual institutions. However, whether persons in custody decide to quit smoking during their imprisonment depends on various factors, such as personal habits, peer influence, family support and their own determination. The Department will conduct smoking cessation courses on an on-going basis, and continue to liaise closely with relevant departments and organisations like the Tobacco Control Office, Department of Health and the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health, and consider various feasible measures to encourage more persons in custody to quit smoking voluntarily.

Name in block letters: SIN YAT KIN

Post Title: Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date: 26.3.2013