

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

**SB220**

Question Serial No.

1530

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:

The Correctional Services Department will “extend the coverage of the vocational training programme” in the coming year. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

1. of the details of the existing vocational training programme?
2. of the coverage of the extended programme and the provisions required?
3. is there any plan to assist rehabilitated offenders in seeking jobs? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK, Dennis

Reply:

1. Having regard to the situation of local employment market, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) currently works with several training bodies such as the Employees Retraining Board, the Construction Industry Council and the Vocational Training Council to provide eligible adult persons in custody with remaining sentences from 3 to 24 months with more than 30 full-time and part-time vocational training courses for enrolment on a voluntary basis. These courses cover the construction, technical, business, food and beverage, retailing, tourism, beauty care and logistics sectors. Trainees will be arranged to sit for the relevant examinations so as to obtain recognised qualifications, thereby enhancing their employability and facilitating their smooth reintegration into society upon discharge.
2. In 2013-14, CSD plans to provide some 1 400 training places for adult persons in custody and introduce new vocational training courses, including courses on Bar-Bender and Fixer Skill and Hong Kong Style Cafe Operation. In 2013-14, CSD's vocational training-related expenditure like vocational training courses provided by recognised training bodies, employment counseling services, training equipment and materials, etc. is estimated to be about \$12.62 million. Besides, the Department will recruit Technical Instructors to provide some of the vocational training for persons in custody.
3. For persons in custody, the successful securing of employment upon release has an important bearing on their rehabilitation and smooth re-integration into society. As such, the CSD attaches great importance to the employment needs of rehabilitated persons and has been taking measures to assist them to find a job. Apart from providing the above market-oriented vocational training, the CSD introduced a new pre-release employment counselling service in August 2012. Systematic job matching service is provided for persons in custody who will be released within three months to help them find a job before discharge. Under the new arrangement, persons in custody will have access to job vacancy information through the Pre-release Reintegration Orientation Course, Light Emitting Diode (LED) display boards in correctional facilities and the job vacancy notices displayed in institutions. When necessary, the CSD will make arrangements for employers to conduct job interviews with the applicants at the institutions.

Since the introduction of the pre-release employment counselling service, 116 employers have registered to offer 213 job vacancies as at end-February 2013. The Department will provide those rehabilitated persons who are subject to statutory supervision upon release with employment counselling and support, thereby helping them to rebuild self-confidence and reintegrate into society. For those who are not subject to statutory supervision, CSD will encourage and refer them to receive post-release employment follow-up service provided by relevant non-governmental organisations on a voluntary basis. Furthermore, the CSD will continue to promote community involvement and appeal to employers to provide employment opportunities for rehabilitated persons.

Name in block letters: SIN YAT KIN

Post Title: Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date: 26.3.2013