

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

SB222

Question Serial No.

3747

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 Rehabilitation Division of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) is responsible for providing useful work and vocational training opportunities for adult persons in custody under Prison Programme so as to help them develop good working habits and acquire work skills with a view to facilitating their re-integration upon release. Will the Administration advise this Committee of the total number of work and vocational training opportunities provided by CSD for adult persons in custody in the past year (2012-13) and the expenditure involved? What specific plans will be implemented in the coming year (2013-14) to facilitate the re-integration of persons in custody into society and what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Tai-fai

Reply:

In 2012-13, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) provided 1 474 market-oriented vocational training places for adult persons in custody. The total financial provision for facilitating the reintegration of persons in custody into society is around \$870 million (revised estimates).

The CSD introduced a new pre-release employment counselling service for persons in custody 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 new 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-government organisations on a voluntary basis.

In 2013-14, the estimated total financial provision for facilitating the reintegration of persons in custody into society is around \$900 million. CSD plans to provide some 1 400 training places for adult persons in custody. Having regard to the situation of local employment market, the Department will step up cooperation 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 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 also be arranged to sit for the relevant examinations to obtain recognised qualifications, thereby enhancing their employability and facilitating their smooth

reintegration into society upon discharge. The CSD also plans to introduce new vocational training courses, including courses on Bar-Bender and Fixer Skill and Hong Kong Style Cafe Operation. Moreover, 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