

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

SB228

Question Serial No.

4145

Head: 30 Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

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. Please advise:

1. the provision by the Department for toilet paper in 2013-14? Will the Government increase the provision so as to supply all persons in custody with sufficient toilet paper?
2. the estimated expenditure by the Department for procuring toilet paper in 2013-14? What is the estimated number of rolls of toilet paper that can be procured?
3. the estimated average daily number of persons who can use the toilet paper?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department cares about the basic needs of persons in custody. On the first day of admission to a penal institution, each person in custody will be provided with 1 roll of toilet paper by the Department. Given the different physical needs of male and female, the Department currently provides each male person in custody with 1 roll of toilet paper every 3 weeks while each female person in custody is provided with 2 rolls each month. Persons in custody may request additional toilet paper from staff if necessary. The staff will exercise discretion in handling such requests basing on the actual need.

Toilet paper is one of the daily commodities for persons in custody and the expense is included under Subhead 000 Departmental Expenses - Specialist supplies and equipment. The provision for this item is around \$44.39 million in 2013-14.

In 2012-13, the daily average penal population in correctional facilities was about 9 300. The Department will ensure that toilet paper is available for all persons in custody when they need so.

Name in block letters: SIN YAT KIN

Post Title: Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date: 26.3.2013