

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****SB171****(Question Serial No. 2214)**

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (SIN Yat-kin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 136

Question (Member Question No. 22):

Regarding the application of technology and other measures for enhancing daily operation of correctional institutions, please inform this Committee of:

1. the details of the plan on the application of technology in future; and
2. the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. KWOK, Dennis

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) is committed to providing a secure, safe, humane, decent and healthy environment for persons in custody. CSD has been exploring the application of advanced technology for enhancing the daily operation of correctional institutions, which includes the X-ray Body Scanner, Human Presence Detection System (HPDS), Video Analytic System, Digital CCTV System and Electric Locks Security System (ELSS).

In 2013, CSD put the first low radiation X-ray body scanner into full use in Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre to replace manual rectal search on newly admitted persons in custody and the outcome was satisfactory. CSD is procuring an X-ray body scanner each for Pik Uk Correctional Institution, Lo Wu Correctional Institution and Tai Lam Centre for Women and the estimated cost of each body scanner is about \$2.86 million.

To enhance the security of institutions, CSD introduced the first HPDS in late January 2014. The system assists staff in detecting the existence of persons hiding inside a vehicle in an attempt to illegally enter or escape from correctional institutions. The estimated cost of each HPDS is \$1 million. The Video Analytic System was also introduced at Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre to strengthen the security in the parameter of the correctional institutions. The expenditure involved is \$2.8 million. Furthermore, CSD will seek funding approval from the Legislative Council for replacing and upgrading the CCTV system at Stanley Prison. The proposal included the use of digital CCTV system and high definition camera, extending the coverage areas and the retention period of video records to 31 days. The expenditure involved is \$163 million.

It has been a time-consuming and involved complicated procedure in using the old system of manually operated mechanical locks to lock or unlock the gate. To solve this problem, CSD has installed the ELSS at the Lo Wu Correctional Institution and the outcome is satisfactory. The Department already consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Security in February 2014 in respect of carrying out a similar project at Tai Lam Centre for Women and will seek funding approval from the Legislative Council Finance Committee

later this year. The expenditure involved in this project is \$25 million. CSD will, having regard to the security and operational needs of individual correctional institutions, consider installing the ELSS to replace the old system of manually operated mechanical locks.