

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB172****(Question Serial No. 2215)**

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Re-integration

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 137

Question (Member Question No. 33):

The success rates of drug addiction treatment centres have often remained on the low side. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. At present, how does the Administration assist the residents of drug addiction treatment centres to remain drug free after they leave the centres?
2. Does the Administration have any initiatives to enhance the success rates? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK, Dennis

Reply:

According to the Drug Addiction Treatment Centres (DATC) Ordinance (Cap 244), the Correctional Services Department (CSD) has to provide two to 12 months' drug addiction treatment for persons in custody in DATC. After leaving the institution, the persons in custody will be subject to 12 months' post release supervision. During the supervision period, supervising officers will provide assistance for persons in custody regarding their adaptation to society, family relationship and employment issues after leaving DATC. They also supervise and urge them to comply with requirements of supervision orders, help them re-integrate into society, and stay away from drugs and crimes.

A DATC case is considered successful if the supervisee is able to meet the requirements of "not relapsing to drug abuse" and "not having committed any offence against the laws of Hong Kong" during the statutory one-year supervision period after release. The success rates of DATC Programme are affected by a number of personal and social factors, which include the criminal conviction and drug abuse history of supervisees (such as the number of previous criminal convictions, the duration of drug abuse history and the nature of their offences, etc), the motivation and determination of supervisees to stay away from drugs, the support of the community and their family members, as well as the prevalence of drug problem in the community, etc. The Administration has not set any targets for the success rates of DATC.

The purpose of post release supervision is to ensure supervisees comply with the requirements of supervision and help them re-integrate into society through regular contacts, close supervision and timely intervention by supervising officers. Apart from failure to comply with the two requirements of "not relapsing to drug abuse" and "not having committed any offence against the laws of Hong Kong", supervisees may also be recalled by supervising officers for violation of other requirements of supervision (such as refusal to provide urine sample, failure to meet with supervising officer at least once a month, etc). The purpose of the recall is to

enable supervisees to receive further training and counselling before they commit offences or relapse to drug abuse again.

In recent years, CSD has proactively implemented various new measures such as enhancing the pre-release re-integration orientation course and counselling services for persons in custody at DATC so as to strengthen their determination to stay away from drugs. Moreover, it has stepped up spot check and surveillance of drug testing procedures of supervisees.