

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB337****(Question Serial No.4362)**

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. 61):

Under this programme, the success rates of the re-integration programmes within the supervision period of training centre (non-conviction in three years after discharge) were around 60% in the past two years, while those of drug addiction treatment centre (non-conviction and free from drugs in one year after discharge) remained around 45%. In view of such relatively low success rates, has the Administration conducted any review and devised any new plan to improve the current situation in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

The training centre (TC) programme and drug addiction treatment centre (DATC) programme are devised according to the Training Centres Ordinance and Drug Addiction Treatment Centres Ordinance respectively. They have different approaches and contents, and their targets of admission have different backgrounds, re-offending risks and rehabilitative needs. A TC case is considered successful if the supervisee is able to meet the requirement of “not having committed any offence against the laws of Hong Kong” during the statutory three-year supervision period after release. A DATC case is considered successful if the supervisee is able to meet the requirements of “not having committed any offence against the laws of Hong Kong” and “not relapsing to drug abuse” during the statutory one-year supervision period after release. The success rates of different programmes are affected by a number of personal and social factors, which include the criminal conviction or 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 determination of supervisees, the support of the community and their family members, as well as the prevalence of crime and drug problem in the community, etc. Therefore, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) considers it inappropriate to compare the effectiveness of these two programmes merely on the basis of their success rates.

In recent years, the 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.