

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****SB338****(Question Serial No. 4907)**

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

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

Programme: (1) Prison Management, (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 135

Question (Member Question No. 166):

Regarding the work of the Correctional Services Department, please advise:

- a) The annual number of persons in custody who are smokers and drug addicts over the past three years. As regards the enhanced promotional efforts on anti-smoking messages and the provision of drug addiction treatment programmes for persons in custody, what are the details of work, expenditure and manpower involved and their effectiveness each year?
- b) Regarding the assistance provided to persons in custody for their re-integration into society, please list out the annual figures in respect of the following items over the past five years:
- b1 the number of participants in rehabilitation programmes;
  - b2 the number of participants in drug addiction treatment programmes;
  - b3 the number of participants in aftercare and support services;
  - b4 the number of participants in educational and vocational training programmes; and
  - b5 the number of rehabilitated offenders who have continued their studies or secured employment within one year upon release.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

- a) Adult persons in custody have the freedom to choose smoking whereas young persons in custody cannot smoke. In the past three years, the percentages of adult persons in custody who indicated that they were smokers upon admission to correctional institutions are as follows:

Year	Male	Female	Total
2011	96.4%	39.6%	85.3%
2012	96.3%	42.9%	86.2%
2013	90.4%	43.2%	81.5%

For the sake of the health of persons in custody, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) has made proactive efforts, in line with the Government's policy of tobacco control, by setting up a "Steering Committee on Smoking Control Measures in Correctional Facilities" to implement and monitor tobacco control measures. Educational talks and individual counselling are arranged for persons in custody to encourage and help them quit smoking on a voluntary basis. Through displaying publicity posters and organising poster design competitions and smoking cessation courses, CSD seeks to promote a non-smoking culture among persons in custody and enhance their awareness of the harmful effects of smoking.

In October 2011, CSD launched a new smoking cessation counselling programme. Under the programme, nicotine patches were provided to persons in custody who participated in smoking cessation courses. On 1 January 2013, Tung Tau Correctional Institution was officially designated as CSD's first "Smoke-free Correctional Facility" which only accommodates adult male persons in custody who decide not to smoke. CSD has also progressively set up "smoke-free prison zones" in designated areas of institutions (including Stanley Prison, Pik Uk Prison, Hei Ling Chau Correctional Institution and Lo Wu Correctional Institution).

CSD deploys existing resources to carry out the publicity work related to anti-smoking publicity. In 2014-15, the estimated expenditure for purchasing nicotine patches for persons in custody who participate in smoking cessation courses is \$100,000.

As regards drug addiction treatment programmes, according to the Drug Addiction Treatment Centres Ordinance (Cap. 244), CSD has to provide two to 12 months' drug addiction treatment for drug addicts who are sentenced to drug addiction treatment centres by the court. The treatment programme is based on discipline and out-door physical activities with emphasis on both work and therapy programmes. The discharged drug addicts are subject to one-year post-release statutory supervision. In the past three years, the numbers of persons who were sentenced to drug addiction treatment centres by the court are as follows:

Year	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
No. of persons	1 211	1 231	1 223

A Drug Addiction Treatment Centre (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 supervision period. In 2011, 2012 and 2013, the success rates of such cases were 42.2%, 43.6% and 46.8% respectively. The success rates of DATC cases 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.

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. Once the supervisees are found in violation of any requirements of supervision, they will be immediately recalled to receive further training and counselling at DATC. The purpose of the recall is to intervene appropriately as early as possible before they commit offences or relapse to drug abuse again.

The DATC Programme is one of the rehabilitation services provided by the Department under the Programme "Re-integration". The estimate for the Programme for 2014-15 is \$906.8 million, including manpower and other related expenses. CSD does not maintain any record of the breakdown of the expenditure and manpower for the DATC Programme.

b)

- b1 CSD provides rehabilitation services and support in different ways and of different levels to each offender who is convicted and admitted to correctional institutions, having regard to the duration of their imprisonment and rehabilitation needs. These services and support include individual and group counselling, vocational training, educational courses, information on rehabilitation, etc. The aim is to help persons in custody rehabilitate and re-integrate into society. In the past five years, the daily average penal population (including persons in custody who are on remand) is as follows:

Year	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
No. of persons	10 325	10 073	9 658	9 247	9 206

- b2 In the past five years, the numbers of persons who were sentenced to DATC are as follows:

Year	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
No. of persons	1 572	1 359	1 211	1 231	1 223

- b3 CSD provides aftercare and support services to rehabilitated offenders who are subject to one-year statutory supervision upon release. In the past five years, the numbers of persons who were subject to post-release supervision are as follows:

Year	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
No. of persons	2 774	2 455	2 138	2 093	2 124

- b4 CSD provides half day education and half day vocational training for most of young persons in custody under 21. In the past five years, the numbers of young persons in custody who were sentenced to imprisonment and required to participate in education and vocational training are as follows:

Young Persons in Custody

Year	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
No. of persons who participated in education and vocational training	1 743	1 614	1 269	1 108	1 082

Moreover, CSD provides adult persons in custody with vocational training courses for enrolment on a voluntary basis, and helps them to enroll in distance learning courses organised by outside educational institutions. In the past five years, the attendances of adult persons in custody for educational and vocational training are as follows:

Adult Persons in Custody

Year	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Attendance for education	834	739	930	837	927
Attendance for vocational training	943	1 267	1 334	1 446	1 348

- b5 Since the absolute majority of persons in custody are not subject to statutory supervision upon release, CSD is unable to grasp the situation of their employment and education upon release. As such, the related figures concerning rehabilitated offenders within one year upon release are not available. Nevertheless, CSD will encourage and refer them to the relevant non-government organisations to receive post-release support services, including counselling and follow-up on employment and education, on a voluntary basis.