

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB342****(Question Serial No. 5854)**

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 135

Question (Member Question No. 342):

What is the provision involved for minors in custody to receive formal secondary education (the “3-3-4” curriculum or the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE)) in 2014-15? What were the numbers of minors in custody receiving secondary education (the “3-3-4” curriculum or HKCEE) and the provisions required in the past 5 years? Also, what is the number of minors in custody who had not been arranged by the Department to receive formal secondary education (the “3-3-4” curriculum or HKCEE)?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) provides secondary education for young persons in custody and the subjects are taught by qualified teachers. The estimated expenditure on education for all persons in custody in 2014-15 is about \$32.5 million, which will be mainly used on young persons in custody, and such expenditure in the past five years (up to 2013-14) is as follows:

Year	Expenditure on Education
2009-10	\$26.4 million (Actual)
2010-11	\$26.4 million (Actual)
2011-12	\$29.6 million (Actual)
2012-13	\$30.6 million (Actual)
2013-14	\$31.2 million (Revised Estimate)

The numbers of young persons in custody who received education provided by CSD between 2009 and 2013 are as follows:

Year	Number of young persons in custody who received education
2009	1 743
2010	1 614
2011	1 269
2012	1 108
2013	1 082

Given the drop in the overall young penal population in the past five years, there was a corresponding decrease in the number of young persons in custody receiving education. The above figures do not include the detainees of detention centres, the young offenders receiving the second phase of training in rehabilitation centres and young persons in custody under remand. The detainees of detention centres have to receive other forms of training in accordance with the Detention Centres Ordinance (Cap. 239), and young offenders receiving the second phase of training in rehabilitation centres may go out for work or schooling during day time. Furthermore, young persons in custody under remand have a shorter period of custody generally. Nevertheless, CSD will provide suitable education services for them having regard to their individual needs.