CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5236)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):   (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: Not Specified

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 141

Question (Member Question No. 12):

In 2014-2015, what is the estimated expenditure of the Correctional Services Department for duty visits or exchanges to Mainland China? Please advise on the themes of duty visits or exchanges planned to be conducted in Mainland China in 2014-2015? How will the Administration avoid any activities irrelevant to official duties of the visits? How will the Administration prevent the application for changing the destination of visit from becoming just a perfunctory process?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

In 2014-15, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) will arrange for staff to conduct duty visits or exchanges related to correctional services to regions outside Hong Kong where necessary with a view to enhancing the quality of service. As of now, CSD does not have any concrete plans yet.

If the expenses for overseas duty visits are charged to public funds, such visits will be governed by the relevant regulations and guidelines to ensure effective monitoring and proper use of public funds. Such regulations include conducting overseas duty visits only with full justifications to meet operational needs, obtaining prior official approval for all overseas duty visits and avoiding activities irrelevant to official duties. In submitting the application, the relevant officer must provide all the necessary information regarding the tentative overseas visits as far as practicable.   If there are any subsequent changes to the overseas visit arrangements, the relevant officer must inform the approving officer as soon as possible. The approving officer must then assess whether it is necessary to reconsider the application.