

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2549)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (YAU Chi-chiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Under this Programme, the Correctional Services Department extended the coverage of the vocational training programme to provide more market-oriented and socially recognised vocational training for persons in custody in 2013-14. Please advise this Committee the effectiveness of the work in the past year. What were the new types of trade introduced? What was the expenditure involved? What programmes will be introduced in 2015-16? Will the coverage of the vocational training programme be further extended? If yes, what are the details and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (Member Question No. 43)

Reply:

In 2014-15, the Correctional Services Department (CSD), having regard to the situation of the local employment market, worked with various training bodies such as the Employees Retraining Board, the Construction Industry Council and the Vocational Training Council to provide eligible adult persons in custody with remaining sentences from 3 to 24 months with 38 full-time and part-time vocational training courses for enrolment on a voluntary basis. These courses covered the construction, engineering, business, food and beverage, retail, tourism, beauty care and logistics sectors, etc. The enrolled persons in custody were also arranged to sit for the relevant examinations so as to obtain recognised qualifications, thereby enhancing their employability and facilitating their smooth re-integration into society upon discharge. In 2014-15, CSD, on a need basis, provided adult persons in custody with a total of about 1 400 training places for enrolment, including 3 new vocational training courses on Computer Multi-media Production and Programming, Care Worker Training and Professional Taxi Driver Training (Taxi Written Test).

CSD also provides half-day education and half-day vocational training for young persons in custody. At present, CSD provides them with 16 vocational training courses covering the technical, business and service industries, such as electrical installation, office and commercial practice as well as food and beverage service. The trainees will also be arranged to sit for examinations held by the accreditation bodies, for example the

certification examinations of the City and Guilds and the intermediate trade tests of the Construction Industry Council, and take certificate courses offered by various training bodies.

In 2014-15, CSD has proactively enhanced and introduced more training facilities. The revised estimate of expenditure on vocational training courses provided by recognised training bodies, employment counseling services, training equipment and materials etc. is about \$14.94 million.

In 2015-16, CSD, having regard to market needs, will continue to offer a wider choice of vocational training courses such as Pet Groomer and Shop Assistant Training, Dim Sum Cook Training, Presentation Software Application, Computer Drawing and Drawings Management Training, etc. Moreover, the number of training places will be adjusted in accordance with the demand of persons in custody. The expenditure on organising new courses has been included in the estimated expenditure on vocational training in 2015-16 and it is similar to that in 2014-15. Furthermore, CSD will continue to co-operate with various training bodies which provide employment follow-up service so that CSD will be informed of the employment situation of persons in custody after release and such information can be used as reference for formulating course types and training plans.