

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 2266)**

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:

The success rates of drug addiction treatment centres have often remained on the low side. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. At present, how does the Government assist the residents of drug addiction treatment centres to remain drug free after they leave the centres?
2. Does the Government have any initiatives to enhance the success rates? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Dennis (Member Question No. 28)

Reply:

According to the Drug Addiction Treatment Centres (DATC) Ordinance (Cap. 244), the Correctional Services Department (CSD) has to provide 2 to 12 months' drug addiction treatment for the persons in custody in DATC. After leaving the institution, they will be subject to 12 months' post-release supervision. During the supervision period, supervising officers will provide assistance to supervisees regarding their adaptation to society, family relationship and employment issues after release. They will also supervise and urge supervisees to comply with the requirements of supervision orders, help them re-integrate into society, and stay away from drugs and crimes.

A 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 statutory one-year supervision period after release. The success rates of DATC Programme 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. The Government has not set any targets for the success

rates of DATC.

The purpose of post-release supervision is to ensure that supervisees comply with the requirements of supervision and help them re-integrate into society through regular contacts, close supervision and timely intervention by supervising officers. Apart from failure to comply with the two requirements of “not relapsing to drug abuse” and “not having committed any offence against the laws of Hong Kong”, supervisees may also be recalled by supervising officers for violation of other requirements of supervision (such as refusal to provide urine sample, failure to meet with supervising officer at least once a month, etc.). The purpose of the recall is to enable supervisees to receive further training and counselling before they commit offences again or relapse to drug abuse.

In recent years, CSD has proactively implemented various new measures such as enhancing the Pre-release Re-integration Orientation Course, organising enhanced anti-drug groups and strengthening counselling services for recalled supervisees at DATC, so as to reinforce their determination to stay away from drugs. Moreover, the Department has stepped up the checking and surveillance of the drug testing procedures of supervisees.

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