

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****SB228****(Question Serial No. 2753)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Re-integrationControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (YAU Chi-chiu)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

In 2015-16, the Correctional Services Department will continue to provide market-oriented and socially recognised vocational training courses for persons in custody. Will the Government provide the number of persons in custody being offered work and vocational training opportunities and the number of such offers in the past five years, as well as the expenditure involved? How many of them obtained employment within the first year after their release? In the coming year, what plans will be implemented to help persons in custody re-integrate into society and what is the estimated expenditure involved? Is there any vocational training targeted at young persons in custody, and what are the details and the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon LAM Tai-fai (Member Question No. 7)Reply:

In the past 5 years, the number of market-oriented vocational training places provided by the Correctional Services Department (CSD) for adult persons in custody who would soon be released and the expenditures involved are as follows:

	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
Places for vocational training courses	1 267	1 334	1 474	1 411	1 443
Expenditures <sup>*</sup>	\$10.35 million (Actual expenditure)	\$13.54 million (Actual expenditure)	\$13.52 million (Actual expenditure)	\$13.15 million (Actual expenditure)	\$14.94 million (Revised estimates)

<sup>\*</sup> The figures shown are CSD's expenditure for providing persons in custody with vocational training courses, including expenditure for training adult and young persons in custody. As some of the training courses are provided by the Employees Retraining Board and the Construction Industry Council free of charge, the Department does not have the relevant figures.

In accordance with the laws, most of the persons in custody are not subject to supervision after release. Therefore, CSD does not have the relevant employment data. Nonetheless, CSD will encourage and refer them to receive post-release counselling and employment follow-up service provided by relevant non-government organisations on a voluntary basis.

In 2015-16, CSD plans to provide about 1 400 training places for adult persons in custody and the supply of training places will be subject to adjustment in accordance with the demand of persons in custody. Having regard to the situation of the local employment market, CSD will strengthen the cooperation with various training bodies, such as the Employees Retraining Board, the Construction Industry Council and Vocational Training Council, to provide eligible adult persons in custody with remaining sentences from 3 to 24 months with 39 full-time and part-time vocational training courses for enrolment on a voluntary basis. These courses cover the construction, engineering, business, food and beverage, retail, tourism, beauty care and logistics sectors, etc. Trainees will be arranged to sit for relevant examinations so as to obtain recognised qualifications, thereby enhancing their employability and facilitating their smooth re-integration into society. In the coming year, CSD, having regard to market needs, will offer new courses on Pet Groomer and Shop Assistant Training, Dim Sum Cook Training, Presentation Software Application and Computer Drawing and Drawings Management Training.

Moreover, CSD will continue to provide pre-release employment services. Systematic job matching service will be provided to persons in custody who will be released within 3 months to help them seek employment before discharge. Under this arrangement, persons in custody will have access to job vacancy information through the Pre-release Re-integration Orientation Course, Light Emitting Diode (LED) display boards in correctional facilities and job vacancy notices displayed in institutions. When necessary, CSD will make arrangements for employers concerned to conduct job interviews with the applicants on the phone or through video conference. Employers may also conduct job interviews in person at the institutions.

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 the 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 institutes.

In 2015-16, CSD's total financial provision for facilitating the rehabilitation and re-integration of persons in custody into society is about \$960 million.