

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0975)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Under the Subhead “**Operational expenses**”, there is a drop of 15.7% in the provision for “Welfare for persons in custody” in 2015-16 against the revised estimate for 2014-15. Is the reduction of welfare provision due to a significant decrease in the number of persons in custody, or a drastic increase in other incomes (e.g. the estimate for Subhead 193 “Earnings scheme for persons in custody” increases by 7.7%) or other reasons?

Asked by: Hon NG Leung-sing (Member Question No.11)

Reply:

The drop in the estimate for “Welfare for persons in custody” in 2015-16 against the revised estimate for 2014-15 is mainly due to the adjustment in the expenditure on hiring part-time/contract teachers.

To tie in with the introduction of the New Senior Secondary Curriculum in correctional institutions, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) has gradually converted non-graduate teacher posts to graduate teacher posts through natural wastage since September 2009. Before the assumption of duty by the newly employed graduate teachers, CSD hired part-time/contract teachers as a temporary measure to fill vacant teacher posts concerned in order to address the manpower shortage. The one-off expenditure on hiring part-time/contract teachers was included under “Welfare for persons in custody”. The first stage of the conversion scheme for graduate teacher posts was completed in 2014-15 and CSD has since reduced the number of part-time/contract teachers being hired accordingly. The expenditure on the salaries of the respective graduate teachers has been included under “Personal Emoluments” of Subhead 000.