

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 0184)**

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

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

Programme: (1) Prison Management

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the Correctional Services Department's intention to step up promotion of anti-smoking message among persons in custody, what are the related work plans and performance indicators? In the past 3 years, how many persons in custody were punished for being involved in smoking? What kinds of punishment did they receive?

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 42)

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) is committed to supervising persons in custody under its charge in a secure, safe and humane manner and providing them with a decent and healthy environment. For the sake of the health of persons in custody and in line with the Government's policy of tobacco control, CSD has set up a "Steering Committee on Smoking Control Measures in Correctional Facilities" to implement and monitor tobacco control measures. Educational talks and individual counselling are arranged to encourage and help persons in custody quit smoking on a voluntary basis. CSD also seeks to promote a non-smoking culture among persons in custody and enhance their awareness of the harmful effects of smoking through displaying publicity posters, organising poster design competitions and smoking cessation courses, etc.

Since October 2011, CSD has implemented a smoking cessation counselling programme under which nicotine patches were provided to persons in custody who participated in the smoking cessation courses. Besides, Tung Tau Correctional Institution and Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution were officially designated as CSD's "No Smoking Correctional Facility" in January 2013 and December 2014 respectively to accommodate only non-smoking persons in custody. CSD has also progressively set up "Smoke-free Prison Zone" in the designated areas of other institutions (including Stanley Prison and Lo Wu Correctional Institution). Smoking is not allowed in all institutions for young persons in custody.

Under the principle of maintaining discipline and order in correctional institutions, persons in custody are forbidden to smoke outside the designated areas. The numbers of disciplinary charges against persons in custody, in accordance with rule 63 of the Prison Rules, for smoking outside the designated areas are as follows:

Year	Number of disciplinary charges against persons in custody
2012	35
2013	51
2014	58