

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 6067)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management (2) Re-integration

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the work of the Correctional Services Department:

- a) What are the annual numbers of persons in custody who are smokers or drug addicts in the past 3 years? As regards the enhanced promotional efforts on anti-smoking messages and the provision of drug addiction treatment programmes for persons in custody, what are the details of work, expenditure and manpower involved and their effectiveness each year?
- b) What are the respective annual occupancy rates of correctional facilities in the past 5 years?
- c) Regarding the work on assisting persons in custody to re-integrate into society, please list out the annual figures in respect of the following items in the past 3 years:
 - 1) the number of participants in rehabilitation programmes;
 - 2) the number of participants in drug addiction treatment programmes;
 - 3) the number of participants in aftercare counselling and support services;
 - 4) the number of participants in educational and vocational training programmes;
and
 - 5) the number of rehabilitated offenders who have continued their studies or secured employment within 1 year upon release.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth (Member Question No. 195)

Reply:

- a) Adult persons in custody can choose to smoke whereas young persons in custody cannot. In the past 3 years, the percentages of adult persons in custody who indicated that they were smokers upon admission to correctional institutions are as follows:

Year	Male	Female	Total
2012	96.3%	42.9%	86.2%
2013	90.4%	43.2%	81.5%
2014	87.9%	55.0%	80.8%

For the health of persons in custody, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) has proactively supported the Government's policy of tobacco control by setting 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 for persons in custody to encourage and help them quit smoking on a voluntary basis. Through publicity work and education such as inclusion of smoking cessation talks in the Induction Programme, CSD actively promotes a non-smoking culture among persons in custody and enhances their awareness of the harmful effects of smoking.

In October 2011, CSD implemented a smoking cessation counselling programme under which nicotine patches were provided to persons in custody who participated in smoking cessation courses. Besides, Tung Tau Correctional Institution and Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution were officially designated as "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).

CSD deploys existing resources to carry out the work related to anti-smoking publicity. In 2015-16, the estimated expenditure for purchasing nicotine patches for persons in custody who participate in smoking cessation courses is \$100,000.

As regards drug addiction treatment programmes, CSD has to provide 2 to 12 months' drug addiction treatment for persons in custody who are sentenced to drug addiction treatment centres by the court according to the Drug Addiction Treatment Centres Ordinance (Cap. 244). The treatment programme is based on discipline and outdoor activities with emphasis on both counselling and therapy programmes. The discharged drug addicts are subject to one-year post-release statutory supervision. A Drug Addiction Treatment Centre (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 supervision period. In 2012, 2013 and 2014, the success rates of such cases were 43.6%, 46.8% and 51.4% respectively. The success rates of DATC cases 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 the drug problem in the community, etc.

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 drug testing procedures of supervisees. Once the supervisees are found in violation of any supervision requirements, they will be immediately recalled to receive further training and counselling at DATC. The purpose of the recall is to effect appropriate intervention as early as possible before they commit offences or relapse to drug abuse again.

The DATC Programme is one of the rehabilitation services provided by the Department under the Programme “Re-integration”. The estimate for the Programme for 2015-16 is \$963.1 million, including manpower and other related expenses. CSD does not maintain any record of the breakdown of the expenditure and manpower for the DATC Programme.

- b) In the past 5 years, the average occupancy rates of correctional facilities under CSD are as follows:

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Occupation rate (%)	91.0	87.0	80.7	79.9	76.6

- c) 1. CSD provides rehabilitation programmes and support in different ways and of different levels to each offender who is convicted and admitted to correctional institutions, having regard to the duration of their imprisonment and rehabilitation needs. These include appropriate individual and group counselling, vocational training, educational courses, information on rehabilitation, etc. The aim is to help persons in custody rehabilitate and re-integrate into society. In the past 3 years, the daily average penal population (including persons in custody who are on remand) is as follows:

Year	2012	2013	2014
No. of persons	9 247	9 206	8 797

2. In the past 3 years, the numbers of persons who were sentenced to DATC are as follows:

Year	2012	2013	2014
No. of persons	1 231	1 223	1 041

3. CSD provides aftercare and support services to rehabilitated offenders who are subject to statutory supervision upon release. In the past 3 years, the numbers of persons who were subject to post-release supervision are as follows:

Year	2012	2013	2014
No. of persons	2 093	2 124	1 927

4. CSD provides half day education and half day vocational training for young persons in custody under 21. In the past 3 years, the numbers of young persons in custody who were sentenced to imprisonment and required to participate in education and vocational training are as follows:

Young Persons in Custody			
Year	2012	2013	2014
No. of persons participated in education and vocational training	1 108	1 082	745

Moreover, CSD provides vocational training courses for adult persons in custody to enroll on a voluntary basis, and helps them to enroll in distance learning courses organised by outside educational institutions and sit for public examinations. In the past 3 years, the numbers of adult persons in custody who participated in education and vocational training are as follows:

Adult Persons in Custody			
Year	2012	2013	2014
No. of persons participated in education	837	927	942
No. of persons participated in vocational training	1 446	1 348	1 429

5. Since the great majority of persons in custody are not subject to statutory supervision upon release, CSD is not fully informed of the situation of their employment and education upon release. As such, the related figures concerning rehabilitated offenders within one year upon release are not available. Nevertheless, CSD will encourage and refer them to the relevant non-government organisations to receive post-release support services, including counselling and follow-up on employment and education, on a voluntary basis.