

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB664

(Question Serial No. 6749)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. What is the code of practice for the Correctional Services Department in handling separate confinement?
2. Please provide the usage rates and figures for different types of such cases in the past 5 years.
3. What is number of transgendered persons subject to separate confinement?
4. What is the staff establishment and financial resources required for handling separate confinement? Is the manpower sufficient for handling the existing number of cases? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No.791)

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) is committed to providing a secure, safe, humane, decent and healthy environment for persons in custody (PICs). CSD also works with the general public and other organisations to provide rehabilitated persons with appropriate rehabilitative services so as to help them re-integrate into society. In accordance with Rules 58, 63(1)(b), 68, 68A and 68B of the Prison Rules (Cap. 234A), CSD is empowered to impose segregation or removal from association with other PICs on individual PIC for different reasons and operational needs, including separate confinement imposed as punishment for offences against prison discipline. PICs can also apply for removal from association with other PICs in view of their own circumstances such as special criminal background.

CSD will not discriminate against PICs or treat them differently because of their race, colour, gender, language, religion, political views or other opinions, ethnical or social hierarchy, wealth, background or other identities. PICs will not be subject to separate confinement due to their transgender identity.

The numbers of disciplinary cases involving PICs being imposed separate confinement as punishment and cases involving PICs being removed from association with other PICs in the past 5 years are listed below:

Year	Disciplinary cases involving PICs being imposed separate confinement as punishment	Cases involving PICs being removed from association with other PICs ^(Note 1)
2010	2 386	1 829
2011	2 477	1 856
2012	2 508	1 671
2013	2 423	1 382
2014	2 715	1 417

(Note 1) To deter the smuggling of dangerous drugs into correctional institutions, more than 50% of the above cases involve PICs suspected of having internal concealment of dangerous drugs and they were removed from association with other PICs as a security measure. There were nearly 10% of the cases that involve PICs taking the initiative to apply for removal from association in view of their own circumstances such as special criminal background.

As the management of PICs being imposed separate confinement is part of CSD's daily management work, separate figures on the staff establishment in handling PICs being imposed separate confinement and the expenditure involved are not available.