

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB666

(Question Serial No. 6751)

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:

According to Rules 9 and 34 of Prison Rules (Cap 234A), correctional officers have the statutory obligation to search the rectum, nostrils and any other external orifice of a prisoner on admission. The prisoner also has to observe the "Obedience to directions as to cleanliness" including such directions as regards bathing, shaving and hair cutting.

Regarding the above Ordinance, how many transgendered persons (male-to-female) have had their hair cut? Is the whole "searching" process conducted by male staff?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 793)

Reply:

To put the concept of "caring for the people" into further practice, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) has explored the use of technical equipment to replace manual rectal search in the recent years. Since 2012, low radiation X-ray body scanners have been introduced into Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre, Pik Uk Correctional Institution, Lo Wu Correctional Institution and Tai Lam Centre for Women to replace manual rectal search for preventing the smuggling of dangerous drugs and unauthorised articles into correctional institutions. Currently, X-ray body scanners are used by the above institutions to conduct searches on newly-admitted persons in custody while those refusing to be scanned will be subject to manual rectal search.

CSD will consolidate the views of medical officers, clinical psychologists or psychiatrists and make suitable arrangements on the treatment of transgendered persons in correctional institutions. Correctional officers of an appropriate gender will also be deployed to conduct the search process.