

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB671**

**(Question Serial No. 5120)**

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:

What is the provision involved for minors in custody to receive formal secondary education (the “3-3-4” curriculum or the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE)) in 2015-16? What was the number of minors in custody being subsidised for receiving secondary education (the “3-3-4” curriculum or HKCEE) and the provisions required in the past 5 years? Also, what is the number of minors in custody who had not been arranged by the Department to receive formal secondary education (the “3-3-4” curriculum or HKCEE)?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 191)

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) provides formal education for young persons in custody and the subjects are taught by qualified teachers. The estimated expenditure on education for all persons in custody in 2015-16 is about \$34 million, which will be mainly used on young persons in custody. The relevant expenditures in the past five years are as follows:

Year	Expenditure on Education
2010-11	\$26.4 million (Actual expenditure)
2011-12	\$29.6 million (Actual expenditure)
2012-13	\$30.6 million (Actual expenditure)
2013-14	\$31.7 million (Actual expenditure)
2014-15	\$34.1 million (Revised estimate)

The numbers of young persons in custody who received education provided by CSD between 2010 and 2014 are as follows:

Year	Number of young persons in custody who received education
2010	1 614
2011	1 269
2012	1 108
2013	1 082
2014	745

Given the drop in the overall young penal population in the past five years, there was a corresponding decrease in the number of young persons in custody receiving education. The above figures do not include the detainees of detention centres, young detainees of rehabilitation centres receiving the second phase of training who have to work or attend classes outside, and young persons in custody under remand. The detainees of detention centres have to receive other forms of training in accordance with the Detention Centres Ordinance (Cap. 239), and young persons in custody under remand have a shorter period of custody generally. Nevertheless, CSD will provide suitable educational services for them having regard to their individual needs.