

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5628)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Re-integration

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

At present, how many and which correctional institutions of the Correctional Services Department provide teachers to assist persons in custody with their full-time or part-time studies in prison? In the coming year, will teachers be provided to assist all persons in custody currently pursuing full-time or part-time tertiary or university studies while in prison, with a view to helping them turn over a new leaf through education?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 306)

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) currently provides half-day formal education courses in 7 institutions for young persons in custody, including Pik Uk Correctional Institution, Cape Collinson Correctional Institution, Lai King Correctional Institution, Chi Lan Rehabilitation Centre, Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution, Lai Sun Correctional Institution and Lai Chi Rehabilitation Centre. The courses are taught by qualified teachers. Moreover, CSD encourages adult persons in custody to pursue further studies on a voluntary basis and take public examinations or enroll in university distance learning courses under the users-pay principle. CSD has also arranged the lecturers of the Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK) to provide tutorial sessions for persons in custody pursuing courses offered by OUHK. The Department has set up a number of education funds for persons in custody to apply for financial assistance if they want to pursue further studies but have difficulties in paying for public examination fees, the examination and tuition fees for university distance learning courses or purchasing reference books. These funds are contributed by donations from charitable organisations and members of the public.

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