

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5632)

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:

Will the Correctional Services Department extend correctional education service (including vocational training) from young persons in custody to all adult persons in custody?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 311)

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (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. The Department has set up a number of education funds for persons in custody to apply for financial assistance to assist them 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.

Since 2009, CSD has extended vocational training to eligible adult persons in custody and encouraged their voluntary participation so as to enhance their employability after release. In 2014-15, CSD, having regard to the situation of the local employment market, worked with various training bodies such as the Employees Retraining Board, the Construction Industry Council and the Vocational Training Council to provide eligible adult persons in custody with remaining sentences from 3 to 24 months with 38 full-time and part-time vocational training courses for enrolment on a voluntary basis. These courses covered the construction, engineering, business, food and beverage, retail, tourism, beauty care and logistics sectors, etc. The enrolled persons in custody were also arranged to sit for the relevant examinations so as to obtain recognised qualifications, thereby enhancing their employability and facilitating their smooth re-integration into society upon discharge. In 2014-15, CSD, on a need basis, provided adult persons in custody with a total of about 1 400 training places for enrolment, including 3 new vocational training courses on Computer Multi-media Production and Programming, Care Worker Training and Professional Taxi Driver Training (Taxi Written Test). In 2015-16, CSD, having regard to

- 2 -

market needs, will offer a wider choice of vocational training courses such as Pet Groomer and Shop Assistant Training, Dim Sum Cook Training, Presentation Software Application, Computer Drawing and Drawings Management Training, etc.

- End -