

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB135

(Question Serial No. 2904)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding facilitating the re-integration of persons in custody (PICs) into the community, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. From 2020 until now, what were the amounts of resources spent in providing psychological and counselling services for PICs and the numbers of service recipients each year? What were the respective utilisation rates of psychological and counselling services in respect of PICs involved in the 2019 social turmoil and other categories of PICs?
2. What are the specific contents of the national education for PICs? Please set out the curriculum, frequency of organising related programmes, and the respective numbers of PICs involved in the 2019 social turmoil and other categories of PICs participating in the programmes.
3. Since the establishment of the Ethics College, what are the number of applications received and the actual number of students admitted? Among them, what are the respective numbers of applications from and admissions of PICs imprisoned due to their involvement in the 2019 social turmoil? Has the effectiveness of the programmes been assessed and is there any plan to increase the number of admissions of the Ethics College?
4. The re-integration of PICs into the community not only relies on the work targeting PICs, but also community acceptance. However, currently there is hostility from some people in the community towards those sentenced for imprisonment due to their involvement in the social turmoil in 2019 and some even openly reject their re-integration into the community. Some of them often for political reasons lodge complaints with and exert pressure on the Government regarding various aspects such as work, living and education, so as to stop those people from enjoying public resources in the community as ordinary people, causing immense difficulties for those released from prison despite their determination to abide by the law and live on self-reliance. What are the Government's plans and measures for disseminating positive messages in the community and launching public education accordingly?

Asked by: Hon ZHANG Xinyu, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

1. The figures on psychological services provided to persons in custody (PICs) and residents of halfway houses by the Psychological Services Section of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) in the past 4 years are tabulated below:

Psychological services ^{Note 1}				
Service recipient	Number of times			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
● PICs under the Prison Programme	22 889	24 336	17 957	18 630
● PICs under the Training Centre Programme/ Detention Centre Programme/ Rehabilitation Centre Programme/ Drug Addiction Treatment Centre Programme	3 173	3 432	3 389	4 966
● Rehabilitated persons under the Post-Release Supervision Scheme, Conditional Release Scheme and Release Under Supervision Scheme, and residents of halfway houses	547	568	430	478
Total	26 609	28 336	21 776	24 074

Note 1 : Psychological services include therapies, psychological counselling and assessment. CSD maintains only the numbers of times of psychological services received by PICs and rehabilitated persons, but does not maintain statistics on the breakdown of the offences committed by PICs and rehabilitated persons receiving such services.

As the provision of psychological and counselling services for PICs and those under supervision after release is part of CSD's work to facilitate their re-integration into the community, CSD does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

2. Since July 2020, CSD has launched an educational programme entitled "Understanding History is the Beginning of Knowledge" to assist PICs to learn history in an interesting way through diversified teaching modes covering expert talks, cultural experience classes and virtual reality teaching activities, etc., so as to enhance PICs' sense of national identity, help them establish correct values and reflect on the meaning of life, thereby guiding them back on the right track. Since the implementation of the programme in July 2020, a total of 30 activities have been organised, with a total of 756 participants, of whom 242 are PICs involved in the "black-clad violence". Teachers will also strengthen values education through teaching subjects such as Chinese history, moral and civic education, Basic Law education, National Security Law education, etc., so as to enhance PICs' law-abiding awareness.
3. CSD established the Ethics College at Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution and Lo Wu Correctional Institution in late October 2023 to offer a one-year full-time Diploma of Applied Education programme for voluntary enrolment by adult PICs. The College received in the first year a total of 133 applications (43 of which were from PICs involved in the "black-clad violence") for enrolment in the programme. There were a total of 75 successful applicants for enrolment, including 60 males and 15 females (29 of them were PICs involved in the "black-clad violence"). All PICs enrolled in the Ethics College programme have satisfactory performance in terms of learning attitude

and discipline. CSD will continuously review the effectiveness of the programme for consideration of future admission arrangements.

4. Community acceptance is of utmost importance to the smooth re-integration of rehabilitated persons into the community. As such, CSD has been committed to conducting community education and public engagement activities to promote community acceptance of and support for rehabilitated persons. On publicity and public engagement, CSD has been organising a wide variety of activities for district organisations, employers and the general public, including holding district activities in 18 districts in collaboration with the District Fight Crime Committees, participating in the Hong Kong Brands and Products Expo and Hong Kong Flower Show, and launching relevant publicity work via social media and platforms, etc.

To promote community-wide support for rehabilitated persons, CSD will organise the Rehabilitation Partners Award Presentation Ceremony this year to give recognition to individuals or groups, including non-governmental organisations, businesses, employers, etc., for their continuous support for rehabilitation work, with a view to encouraging different sectors of the community to become CSD's rehabilitation partners, thus developing a broader support network for building a more stable and harmonious society through concerted efforts.

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