

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB160

(Question Serial No. 3444)

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:

Please provide the number and content of programmes currently offered in rehabilitation centres. Are persons in custody (PICs) who are tertiary students provided with post-secondary programmes? If no, what is the content of the programmes provided to these PICs?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 216)

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) provides half-day compulsory education for young persons in custody (PICs) aged between 14 and 20, and arranges for qualified teachers to teach the subjects. Having regard to the length of sentences and learning needs of young PICs, CSD provides young PICs undergoing training at rehabilitation centres with the "Teen's Programme", which includes 120 hours of basic education curriculum at the junior secondary school level (with subjects including Chinese, English, Mathematics, Life and Society) and 180 hours of vocational training. The programme is recognised by the Vocational Training Council.

CSD also provides young PICs with courses at the secondary school level. PICs who were studying post-secondary programmes before imprisonment may contact their tertiary institutions for suitable modes of study and learning materials. CSD would assist PICs upon their requests to continue to study the relevant programmes at correctional institutions. PICs may also enrol in distance learning courses offered by the Hong Kong Metropolitan University according to their interests and abilities. Correctional institutions would provide appropriate assistance to them.

CSD has earlier signed Memorandums of Understanding with the Hong Kong Metropolitan University and 8 University Grants Committee-funded universities respectively to provide more comprehensive support for PICs, including credit transfers, with a view to assisting them to continue their studies after release.