

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB165

(Question Serial No. 3449)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please list the numbers of persons in custody kept in special cells (e.g. single cells), distribution of length of confinement (e.g. 7 days, 14 days, 21 days and 28 days) and reasons for the confinement in various correctional institutions and prisons in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 221)

Reply:

By virtue of the duties and powers conferred by law, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) is committed to ensuring a secure, safe, humane, decent and healthy custodial environment. In accordance with the Prison Rules (Cap. 234A), CSD is empowered to impose separate confinement as punishment on persons in custody (PICs) who have committed offences against prison discipline, and to order the removal of PICs from association if the Department has reasonable grounds for believing that it is desirable to do so for the maintenance of good order or discipline or in the interests of PICs. PICs can also apply on their own initiative for removal from association with other PICs in view of their own circumstances such as special criminal background.

The numbers of cases involving PICs being removed from association, distribution of length of removal from association and the numbers of disciplinary cases involving PICs being imposed separate confinement as punishment in the past 5 years are tabulated below (as at 31 December of the year):

Year	Distribution of length of removal from association				Total number of cases involving PICs being removed from association (Note 1)	Disciplinary cases involving PICs being imposed separate confinement as punishment (Note 2)
	Under 72 hours	72 hours to 1 month	1 month to not longer than 4 months	Above 4 months		
2023	140(21)	306(27)	215(26)	26(26)	687	4 395
2022	174(31)	220(42)	202(27)	53(53)	649	3 801
2021	445(68)	284(82)	256(37)	52(51)	1 037	4 307
2020	389(15)	187(27)	158(29)	33(33)	767	3 562
2019	423(6)	242(18)	131(19)	33(33)	829	3 181

() Cases involving PICs applying for removal from association on their own initiative.

Note 1: Over 80% of the cases involved PICs being removed from association as a security measure to maintain institutional discipline and order or when the PICs were suspected of having internal concealment of dangerous drugs. As for the remaining cases, the PICs applied on their own initiative for removal from association in view of their own circumstances (such as special criminal background).

Note 2: In accordance with Rule 63 of the Prison Rules, separate confinement for any period shall not exceed 28 days.

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