

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB169

(Question Serial No. 3453)

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 with disabilities in various correctional institutions in the past 5 years and currently by the types of disabilities. Please inform this Committee of the arrangements for the provision of care and necessary treatments made for persons with disabilities serving their sentences in prison, and provide a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 225)

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) provides basic medical care services to all persons in custody (PICs), including setting up hospitals in correctional institutions where medical examinations and appropriate treatments or referrals are provided to newly admitted PICs by Medical Officers (MOs) seconded from the Department of Health and correctional officers with nursing qualifications. CSD will also arrange for PICs to serve their sentences at appropriate correctional institutions and provide PICs with appropriate health care, attention and necessary treatments, taking into account the advice of MOs.

CSD also cares for the special needs of PICs with disabilities. For instance, CSD organises sign language courses in collaboration with non-profit-making organisations to enhance frontline correctional officers' communication skills with and understanding of PICs with hearing impairment. In addition, CSD will, having regard to the circumstances of individual PICs with hearing impairment, engage part-time sign language interpreters or seek assistance from non-governmental organisations to arrange sign language interpretation service for those PICs in need.

Since the caring of PICs with disabilities forms part of the daily management work of CSD, the Department does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

According to the annual penal population survey conducted by CSD, a breakdown of the numbers of persons with disabilities serving sentences by the type of disabilities from 2019

to 2023 is tabulated below (since the penal population survey for 2024 has yet to be conducted, CSD does not have the relevant statistics):

Year (As at 31 March)	Persons with mental disabilities or mental illness	Persons with physical disabilities	Total
2023	474	106	580
2022	229	125	354
2021	79	135	214
2020	78	95	173
2019	254	154	408

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