

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB124

Question Serial No.

2810

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Regarding the vocational training and employment of rehabilitated offenders, will the Administration advise:

With reference to “exploring the addition of vocational training facilities for adult prisoners at selected institutions”, what are the details, the estimated number of training places to be provided and the relevant estimated expenditures?

- (b) Having regard to the labour market and job demand, is it possible to provide vocational training to rehabilitated offenders in respect of those industries that have manpower shortage, such as construction industry, recycling industry and nursing care services with a view to facilitating their re-integration into the job market after release?
- (c) Nowadays, many prisoners pursue further studies in prison and have sat for public examinations and some even have obtained their diplomas and degrees. In this connection, will the Administration provide more training that matches with the profession of these prisoners with higher education level, thereby enabling them to engage in trades of higher technical and professional levels upon release?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

- (a) In recent years, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) has strengthened its efforts in providing pre-release vocational training for adult prisoners. Apart

from reserving areas in new penal institutions for the provision of vocational training, we have also made space in existing institutions, where possible, to add vocational training facilities. Over the past years, institutions that have added relevant facilities include Lai Sun Correctional Institution, Chi Sun Correctional Institution, Lai Chi Kok Correctional Institution, Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution, Pik Uk Prison and Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre. CSD will continue to add vocational training facilities in suitable institutions, having regard to the operational environment of individual institutions and the needs of prisoners.

CSD plans to put in place new training facilities at Tong Fuk Correctional Institution to provide training on “food and beverage service” and “plastering and tiling”, offering a total of some 60 training places each year. It is estimated that \$600,000 will be used for the procurement of relevant training equipment and the estimated recurrent expenditure is around \$1 million per year.

- (b) Currently, CSD cooperates with a number of training institutions such as the Employees Retraining Board, the Construction Industry Council Training Academy and the Vocational Training Council to provide market-oriented vocational training courses for adult prisoners, having regard to the operational environment of individual institutions, the needs of prisoners and the situation of the employment market. The courses offered include electrical fitting and installation, painting and decoration, office and commercial practice, removal and logistics, booth setting and decoration, forklift truck operator and word processing, etc. We will continue to keep in view the market situation, regularly review the provision of vocational training to prisoners and evaluate its effectiveness.
- (c) CSD encourages prisoners with higher education level to pursue further studies for self-enhancement. For those who have already obtained academic qualification at the level of Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination or above, they may enrol in courses of higher levels, such as those offered by the Hong Kong Management Association, the Hong Kong Institute of Accredited Accounting Technicians and the Open University of Hong Kong, according to their abilities and interests. They may also sit for the relevant open examinations and professional examinations. Staff members of the CSD’s Education Unit will provide guidance and advice to prisoners who wish to pursue further studies, help them enrol in suitable courses, open examinations and professional examinations, and apply for relevant subsidies.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u> KWOK LEUNG MING </u>
Post Title	<u> Commissioner of Correctional Services </u>
Date	<u> 16 March 2010 </u>