

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB221

(Question Serial No. 2222)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (YAU Chi-chiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2013-14, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) extended the coverage of the vocational training programme to provide more market-oriented and socially recognised vocational training for persons in custody. Please advise this Committee of the effectiveness of the work concerned in the past year. Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2016-17 under this Programme include market-oriented and socially recognised vocational training courses for persons in custody. What are the details of the work plan? As the requirements of various types of trade in the job market are always changing, such as the lack of workers in Hong Kong's construction industry in recent years, will CSD continue to extend the coverage of the vocational training programmes to meet the market needs? If yes, what are the details and expenditures involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (Member Question No. 37)

Reply:

In 2015-16, the Correctional Services Department (CSD), having regard to the situation of the local employment market, worked with various training bodies such as the Employees Retraining Board, the Construction Industry Council and the Vocational Training Council to provide eligible adult persons in custody (PICs) with remaining sentences from 3 to 24 months with more than 1 400 training places of 38 full-time and part-time vocational training courses for enrolment on a voluntary basis after assessment of the security risk. These courses covered the construction, business, food and beverage, retail, tourism, beauty care and logistics sectors, etc. There were also new courses on Pet Groomer and Shop Assistant Training, Elementary Dim Sum Making, Presentation Software Application and Computer Drawing and Drawings Management Training, etc. Eligible adult PICs might enrol in these courses on a voluntary basis and sit for the relevant examinations so as to obtain recognised qualifications, thereby enhancing their employability and facilitating their smooth re-integration into society after release.

For young PICs under the age of 21, CSD provided half-day education and half-day vocational training on a compulsory basis to guide them to better understand future directions and develop interests, so that they might choose to further study or work after release.

In 2015-16, CSD provided young PICs with 20 vocational training courses covering the construction, business and service industries. Arrangements were made to facilitate the trainees to sit for the examinations held by the accreditation bodies, for example the certification examinations of the City and Guilds and the intermediate trade tests of the Construction Industry Council, and take certificate courses offered by various training bodies.

In 2016-17, having regard to the overall situation of the local employment market and labour demand, and to cater for the industries with labour shortage problems such as the construction, food and beverage, and service industries, CSD will continue to offer diversified vocational training courses such as courses on Florist and Floriculture Assistant Training and Coffee House Operations. Moreover, in view of the labour shortage problem of the construction industry, CSD will regularly review the courses with the sector to meet the market needs. Apart from courses on Timber Formwork as well as Bar-bending and Fixing, CSD will also introduce new courses such as Decorative Waterproof Worker Training for Renovation. As a result, a total of 41 and 20 vocational training courses will be provided for adult PICs and young PICs respectively.

In addition to subsidised courses provided by various training bodies such as the Employees Retraining Board and the Construction Industry Council, CSD's estimated expenditure on vocational training courses, training equipment and materials etc. is about \$12.20 million. Furthermore, CSD will continue to co-operate with various training bodies which provide employment follow-up service, so that CSD will keep abreast of the market changes and the employment situation of discharged persons for reviewing its vocational training programmes.

- End -