

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 0447)**

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:

Regarding vocational training provided for persons in custody to facilitate their re-integration into the community upon release, will the Department advise:

1. are there training courses related to the construction industry? If yes, what are the details and percentage of participants against the total number of persons under vocational training? If no, what are the reasons?
2. are there statistics on the employment of discharged persons who had received vocational training? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
3. is there a mechanism to assess the effectiveness of vocational training? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him (Member Question No. 16)

Reply:

1. The Correctional Services Department (CSD) provides market-oriented vocational training courses to adult persons in custody (PICs) for enrolment on a voluntary basis in order to facilitate their re-integration into society after release. After assessment of the security risk, CSD provides 10 construction industry training courses, including courses on Timber Formwork, Bar-bending and Fixing, Painting and Decoration, and Wallpapering etc. For young PICs under the age of 21, CSD provides 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 may choose to further study or work after release. Of these vocational training courses, 6 are related to the construction industry, including decorative joinery, building services and electrical installation etc.

The percentages of adult and young PICs taking construction industry courses against the total attendance of PICs under vocational training in the past 2 years are as follows:

	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
Adult PIC participants taking construction industry courses (against all adult PIC participants under vocational training)	183 participants (13.0%)	183 participants (12.7%)
Young PIC participants taking construction industry courses (against all young PIC participants under vocational training)	68 participants (13.7%)	70 participants (13.9%)

2. In accordance with the laws, most of the adult PICs are not subject to supervision after release. Therefore, CSD does not have complete statistics on employment. Nonetheless, CSD will encourage and refer them to receive post-release counselling and employment follow-up services provided by relevant non-government organisations on a voluntary basis. According to the information provided by the relevant organisations, the employment rate and the relevant employment rate of discharged persons who had received construction industry vocational training in the past 2 years are as follows:

	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
Employment rate	93%	90%
Relevant employment rate *	62%	67%

\* *Relevant employment rate refers to the employment rate of posts which are the target types of trade or posts of the training courses.*

3. CSD has all along provided appropriate courses for PICs, having regard to the market situation. In addition, it conducts questionnaire surveys regularly to collect PIC's opinions and assess their preferences for vocational training courses. CSD will also continue to co-operate with various training bodies, and keep abreast of the market changes and the employment situation of discharged persons for assessing and formulating course contents and training proposals.

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