

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB489**

**(Question Serial No. 5658)**

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ( )

Programme: (1) Prison Management

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please advise how many persons in custody were granted leave of absence under Rule 17 of Prison Rules and allowed to leave the correctional institutions each year in the past 5 years. What were the reasons for approval?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 342)

Reply:

In the past 5 years, the numbers of persons in custody (PICs) who were granted leave of absence under Rule 17 of the Prison Rules are listed below:

Year	No. of persons in custody granted leave of absence
2015	28
2014	23
2013	47
2012	39
2011	34

All PICs may apply for leave of absence from the Commissioner of Correctional Services. The Correctional Services Department will consider the applications of PICs in accordance with the relevant laws and the circumstances of different cases. Factors generally considered by the Department include PICs' grounds for application, sentence, offence committed, criminal background, security category, risk of escape, term of imprisonment, performance in prison and privacy, etc.

- End -