

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB249

(Question Serial No. 2212)

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:

It is stated in the Estimates that one of the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18 is improving testing arrangements for urine specimen. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the details; and
2. the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (Member Question No. 78)

Reply:

According to the Drug Addiction Treatment Centres (DATC) Ordinance (Cap. 244), the Correctional Services Department (CSD) has to provide 2 to 12 months' drug addiction treatment for persons in custody in DATC. After leaving the institution, they will also be subject to 12 months of post-release supervision. The purpose of post-release supervision is to ensure supervisees comply with the requirements of supervision and help them re-integrate into society through regular contacts, close supervision and timely intervention by supervising officers. CSD will continue to examine and optimise the supervision mechanism for supervisees, so that supervising officers will be informed of whether there are traces of supervisees relapsing into drug abuse as early as possible and intervene as appropriate.

To enhance the integrity of the testing arrangements for urine specimen, a Urine Specimen Collection Centre was set up at Lai Chi Kok on 25 June 2013, with a view to testing more different types of psychotropic drugs, shortening the time of indirect transfer of urine specimens to the Government Laboratory for testing, reducing possible human errors and enhancing impartiality of the tests, so that the supervision mechanism can be enforced more effectively. As urine specimen testing forms part of the departmental operation, a breakdown on the expenditure involved is not available.

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