

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB478

(Question Serial No. 5655)

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:

Will the Government list out the number of disabled persons currently in various correctional institutions by the types of disabilities? In this connection, please also inform this Committee of the arrangements for care and necessary treatments (e.g. dialysis) rendered to the disabled persons who are serving sentence in prisons.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 3056)

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) provides basic medical care services to all persons in custody (PICs), including setting up hospitals in correctional institutions where medical examinations and appropriate treatments or referrals are provided to newly admitted PICs by Medical Officers from the Department of Health and correctional officers with nursing qualifications. CSD will arrange PICs to serve their sentences at appropriate correctional institutions and provide PICs with proper health care, attention and necessary treatments, taking into account the advice of the Medical Officers. CSD also cares for the special needs of disabled PICs. For instance, CSD organises sign language courses in collaboration with non-profit organisations to enhance frontline correctional officers' communication skills with and understanding of hearing impaired persons. In addition, the Department will, having regard to the circumstances of individual hearing impaired PICs, engage sign language interpreters listed in the register of part-time interpreters maintained by the Judiciary, or seek assistance from non-governmental organisations to arrange sign language interpretation services for those persons in need.

According to the annual penal population survey of 2016, CSD had a total of 515 disabled PICs. Among them, 420 were mentally disabled persons and mentally-ill persons while 95 were physically disabled persons.