

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1003)**

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (LAM Kwok-leung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2013-14, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) extended the coverage of the vocational training programmes 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 and the expenditure incurred in the past year. Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018-19 under this Programme include providing market-oriented and socially recognised vocational training courses for persons in custody. What are the specific plans? As the demand for various types of trade in the Hong Kong job market are always changing, such as the lack of workers in the 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. (LegCo use): 31)

Reply:

In 2017-18, 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 40 full-time and part-time vocational training courses for enrolment on a voluntary basis. These courses covered construction, business, food and beverage, retail, beauty care, transport, logistics, laundry services, computer application and environmental services, etc. There were also new courses such as Foundation Certificate in Plumber Training for Interior Renovation (Intermediate Trade Test) and Foundation Certificate in Pet Sitter. Eligible adult PICs could 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 2017-18, 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, such as 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 2018-19, having regard to the overall situation of the local employment market and labour demand, CSD will continue to offer diversified vocational training courses, and adjust the courses according to the employment rates of particular industries and the response of PICs. Moreover, in view of labour shortage problem of the construction industry, CSD will regularly review the courses with the sector to meet market needs. CSD will also introduce new courses such as Foundation Certificate in Preparation for Intermediate Trade Test for Floor Layer (Timber Flooring) of Interior Renovation and Foundation Certificate in AutoCAD in Renovation Drawings. In 2018-19, a total of 41 and 20 vocational training courses will be provided for adult 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 is about \$31.25 million in 2018-19, including manpower and provision of vocational training courses etc. 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.

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