

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB398

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Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the Correctional Services Department (CSD)'s general procedures for handling the hairstyle of male prisoners currently admitted? How will CSD handle objection of male prisoners?

Some transgendered persons have reflected that, should they fail to change the sex entries on their identity cards, they may be required to have their long hair cut despite already having female appearances, as the sex entries on their identity cards are male. In this connection, how will CSD handle the above situation?

How many complaint cases related to prisoners' hairstyle has CSD received in the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 268)

Reply:

Rule 34 of the Prison Rules (Cap. 234A) provides that every person in custody (PIC) shall obey the directions as regards hair cutting prescribed by the Correctional Services Department (CSD). Such directions are devised having regard to factors such as institutional security, discipline, safety, hygiene, cleanliness, etc. All convicted PICs who are newly admitted are required to have their hair cut in accordance with the directions, except where justifiable reasons, such as religious or health considerations, are provided. No exemption will be made on the basis of the personal preference or image of individual PICs. Should a PIC request exemption from hair cut in accordance with the directions, CSD will consider each case on its merits.

CSD will make appropriate arrangements for the hair cut of transgendered PICs, having regard to individual merits and expert advice of medical officers, clinical psychologists or psychiatrists of institutions.

CSD has not received any complaint from transgendered PICs in relation to arrangements for hair cut from 2015 to 2017.