

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB428**

**(Question Serial No. 4956)**

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:

1. Please list the recorded numbers of cases in which frontline officers used “necessary force” in various prisons and correctional institutions in the past 5 years. If not, what are the reasons?
2. Please list the recorded numbers of persons in custody and staff members injured due to the use of “necessary force” in various prisons in the past 5 years. If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 141)

Reply:

Rule 237 of the Prison Rules (Cap. 234A) stipulates that no correctional officer in dealing with persons in custody (PICs) shall use force unnecessarily and, when the application of force to a PIC is necessary, no more force than is necessary shall be used. The appropriate force to be used by correctional officers against PICs should be non-lethal, defensive and minimal to prevent correctional officers themselves, PICs or other persons from being harmed.

The reasons for correctional officers using necessary force on PICs include stopping PICs from self-harm or abnormal behaviour, fighting among themselves and attacking correctional officers or other persons, etc. The numbers of PICs and correctional officers injured due to such incidents and the intervention of correctional officers, and the numbers of cases in which correctional officers used necessary force in the past 5 years are listed in the following table:

Year	Number of PICs injured	Number of correctional officers injured	Number of cases concerning the use of necessary force
2017	93	23	87
2016	118	73	126
2015	68	82	75
2014	114	80	103
2013	90	57	77

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