

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB186

(Question Serial No. 0426)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the number and percentage of prisoners who are able to seek employment within half a year after release by qualifications attained (i.e. primary, secondary and university education levels). Regarding the various schemes that presently help discharged persons seek employment, what is the specific expenditure incurred by the Correctional Services Department? Please tabulate the relevant statistics and provide the number of discharged persons who successfully seek employment with the assistance of these schemes.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) does not maintain statistics on the number and percentage of rehabilitated persons who are able to seek employment within half a year after release by qualifications attained (i.e. primary, secondary and university education levels).

CSD is committed to helping persons in custody (PICs) engage in gainful employment after they leave the institutions by appealing to employers in the business sector to employ rehabilitated persons and enhancing the community's understanding of their employment needs to further extend employment opportunities for rehabilitated persons so as to enable them to make positive changes and re-integrate into society. The rehabilitative programmes currently implemented by CSD to render employment assistance to rehabilitated persons include:

1. carrying out the "Risks and Needs Assessment and Management Protocol for Offenders" to understand the needs of PICs about employment and their jobs as well as reduce their re-offending risks arising from inability to adapt to the employment market;
2. providing market-oriented vocational training and education for PICs;
3. providing pre-release counselling services that cater for the personal needs of PICs;

4. providing general information on social welfare services and notes on community facilities as well as briefings on job seeking, interview skills and labour legislation through the Pre-release Re-integration Orientation Course;
5. referring PICs with welfare or rehabilitation needs to appropriate government departments or non-governmental organisations for post-release follow-ups to facilitate their re-integration into society;
6. assisting rehabilitated persons in seeking employment through the Caring Employers network under the Pre-release Employment Service since August 2012. As at the end of 2018, more than 700 organisations had registered as Caring Employers to provide 2 319 jobs for rehabilitated persons, and 1 450 applications were received and referred by CSD, in which 635 rehabilitated persons were guaranteed employment by employers; and
7. organising biennial symposiums on employment of rehabilitated persons with a Hong Kong tertiary institution to appeal to employers to give rehabilitated persons employment opportunities. Moreover, Caring Employers are commended for giving rehabilitated persons employment opportunities at the symposiums.

The expenditure of the above measures is absorbed by the Rehabilitation Division of CSD within its existing available resources. CSD does not have a breakdown of the relevant expenditure.

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