

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB188

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Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In respect of Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019–20, it is stated that the Government will explore the application of technology and other measures for enhancing daily operation of correctional institutions. What are the specific measures? What are the establishment and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 162)

Reply:

Background

In her 2018 Policy Address, the Chief Executive put forward the application of innovation and technology to enhance the capabilities of law enforcement agencies, including the development of “Smart Prison”. In the same year, to cope with the rapid, ever changing and complicated social circumstances as well as new challenges of correctional work, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) formulated a “Strategic Plan” for its future development. One of the objectives is to build an integrated and sustainable correctional system to pro-actively develop “Smart Prison” through the implementation of innovation and technology strategies to modernise, informatise and humanise the management mode and process innovation of correctional facilities, as well as the application of technology to enhance the efficiency of custodial management and the security of institutions. To facilitate the planning of the long-term development of “Smart Prison”, CSD set up an inter-departmental Steering Committee on Smart Prison chaired by the Deputy Commissioner of Correctional Services at the end of 2018. Its members include representatives from the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), the Architectural Services Department and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.

Integrated Custodial and Rehabilitation Management System (iCRMS)

In fact, to cope with the development of correctional services, CSD conducted the first “Information Systems Strategy Study” in 2013. The study recommended the development of an iCRMS. CSD sought the Legislative Council’s funding approval and was granted

\$352.754 million in 2016 to develop the iCRMS and to enhance the capacity of the existing information technology infrastructure, so as to improve operational efficiency in the long run and to provide a good foundation for CSD's use of innovation and technology in the future. The relevant project includes establishing a core network infrastructure and enhancing network safety and flexibility of network connectivity. This project will facilitate the further setting up of an Internet of Things network required for "Smart Prison". In addition, the iCRMS will establish a single platform for centralised data and business application to increase the operational and recovery capacity of the system so as to lay a foundation for data analysis and development of CSD. At present, the iCRMS is in the stage of software design and system upgrade. The whole project is expected to come into operation in 2023.

The "Smart Prison" Concept

The "Smart Prison" concept comprises 4 key elements which include "Development of Smart Governance", "Implementation of Process Innovation", "Cultivating Knowledge-based Correctional Officers and Enhancing the Capacities of Rehabilitated Persons to Reintegrate into the Society" and "Application of Smart Prison Designs". All four key elements involve the application of technology. The ultimate objective of developing "Smart Prison" is to combine operational systems and information technology systems to collect data on various aspects for analysis and application, with a view to strengthening officers' readiness in emergency response, enhancing the efficiency of institutional management and operations, and facilitating the Department's long-term strategic planning. The abovementioned single platform for centralised data and business application of the iCRMS will provide greater flexibility and expansion capacity for developing "Smart Prison".

The Department plans to introduce applied technology systems to improve the effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes, such as the introduction of a "Persons in Custody (PICs) Self-service Kiosk", and plans to have various functions incorporated into the system, including submission of different kinds of applications, making complaints and information enquiry, etc., to enable PICs to manage their daily matters, thereby enhancing their self-management skills to provide them with more favourable conditions conducive to their re-integration into society. In addition, CSD has been actively exploring the application of technology to strengthen communication between PICs and the world outside correctional facilities as well as the support for PICs in learning and further studies.

Innovation and Technology Projects

At present, CSD, in collaboration with EMSD, plans to conduct 3 trials in specific areas of 2 institutions, including the installation of the "Video Analytic Monitoring System" in 4 dormitories of Pik Uk Prison, the installation of "Health Signs Monitoring System" in the centre hospital of Lo Wu Correctional Institution and the installation of "Passage Surveillance System" at a designated passage of Lo Wu Correctional Institution. The total non-recurrent expenditure involved is about \$4 million and will be absorbed by EMSD.

Meanwhile, funding has been reserved under the TechConnect (which is a "Block Vote") of the Innovation and Technology Bureau to extend the trial of the "Health Signs Monitoring System" and "Video Analytic Monitoring System" to other institutions, including the installation of "Health Signs Monitoring System" in 2 halls and the centre hospital of Stanley Prison, the centre hospital of Tai Lam Centre for Women and sickbay and geriatric ward of Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre, and the installation of "Video Analytic Monitoring

System” in 22 dormitories, 6 observation cells and the centre hospital of Pik Uk Prison. The total non-recurrent expenditure involved is about \$19 million.

Establishment and Expenditure Involved

In 2019-20, the expenditure involved in exploring the application of technology and other measures to enhance daily operation of correctional institutions is around \$13.537 million. CSD plans to create the following 17 time-limited posts (2019-20 to 2023-24) in the establishment:

Rank	Number
Superintendent of Correctional Services	1
Chief Officer	1
Principal Officer	2
Officer	3
Assistant Officer I	2
Senior Systems Manager	1
Systems Manager	2
Analyst/Programmer II	3
Computer Operator II	1
Statistical Officer I	1
Total	17

The Way Forward

Apart from the above projects, CSD will launch the second “Information Systems Strategy Study” this year to evaluate the progress of projects proposed in the first Study and devise a technological development blueprint for “Smart Prison” to roll out innovation and technology projects in the short, medium and long term according to priorities. Therefore, CSD is currently unable to estimate the expenditure involved for the development of “Smart Prison” as a whole.

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