

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB190

(Question Serial No. 0146)

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:

Regarding the initiative to “provide market-oriented and socially recognised vocational training courses for persons in custody”, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the courses?
2. Will the course arrangement be revised according to market needs? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

In 2018-19, 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 lawfully residing adult persons in custody (PICs) who were due for discharge within 3 to 24 months and eligible for employment with more than 40 full-time and part-time vocational training courses for enrolment on a voluntary basis. These courses covered a wide range of industries, such as construction, business, food and beverage, retail, beauty care, transport, logistics, laundry services, computer application and environmental services, etc. There were also new courses, namely foundation certificate courses in Floor Laying for Interior Renovation and AutoCAD in Renovation Drawings. 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 helping them enrol in bridging or progressive courses in future with a view to facilitating their smooth re-integration into society after release.

For young PICs under the age of 21, CSD provided mandatory half-day education and half-day vocational training to guide them to better understand future directions and develop interests, so that they might choose to further study or work after release. In 2018-19, CSD

provided young PICs with 20 vocational training courses covering the construction, business and service industries. Arrangements were made for 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.

Having regard to the overall situation of the local employment market and labour demand, CSD will review the contents of vocational training courses from time to time, and adjust the courses according to the employment rate of particular industries and the response of PICs. Moreover, CSD will regularly review the courses with the trades and introduce various new courses. In 2019-20, new courses offered will include foundation certificate courses in Virtual Reality Welding, Virtual Reality Visual Merchandising and Retail Management as well as Car Beauty. For young PICs, CSD will also continue to introduce new elements like Installation of Smart Home System as well as Interior Design and 3D Rendering to its courses. Through the employment follow-up service provided by training bodies, CSD will keep abreast of the market changes and the employment situation of discharged persons with a view to further improving its vocational training programmes provided for PICs.

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