

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB362

(Question Serial No. 4040)

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:

Regarding the initiatives to promote the development of Smart Prison, will the HKSAR Government please reply to the following:

1. the details of support provided to the Correctional Services Department (CSD) by the Innovation and Technology Bureau, work progress, and the manpower and expenditures involved in the past 2 years;
2. the numbers of project tenders received in respect of promoting the development of Smart Prison by CSD, details of the projects, and the manpower and expenditures involved in the past 2 years;
3. the brands and quantities of smart wristbands and closed circuit television cameras with facial recognition function procured for promoting the development of Smart Prison by CSD in the past 2 years;
4. the quantities and expenditures of computer systems or software developed or procured for promoting the development of Smart Prison by CSD in the past 2 years.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 107)

Reply:

- 1 and 2. Since 2018, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) has been planning to conduct 3 trials in specific areas of individual institutions, i.e. "Health Signs Monitoring System", "Video Analytic Monitoring System" and "Passage Surveillance System". The total non-recurrent expenditure involved is about \$4 million and all relevant work will be taken up by existing manpower.

The details of the 3 trials are as follows:

(i) “Health Signs Monitoring System”

The “Health Signs Monitoring System”, which can monitor heart rates, is being tested in the centre hospital of Lo Wu Correctional Institution for monitoring the physical condition of persons in custody (PICs) with medical and nursing needs, including those who have self-harm and suicide propensity. After consulting the Medical Officer of the institution, the Department will arrange those PICs to wear “smart wristbands” to monitor their heart rates. If any abnormalities of heart rates are detected, the System will instantly raise an alarm to alert the correctional officers on duty for immediate follow-up action. Although the existing mechanism has ensured that PICs are closely monitored upon returning to their cells, we could not preclude the possibility that the physical conditions of some PICs may suddenly become abnormal after each patrol. Therefore, CSD plans to ensure that the physical conditions of PICs are monitored scientifically round the clock through the application of innovative technologies, so as to protect the safety of PICs.

(ii) “Video Analytic Monitoring System”

The “Video Analytic Monitoring System”, which is being tested in 4 dormitories of Pik Uk Prison, can help monitor abnormal behaviours and acts of indiscipline of PICs. The System will compare the preset behaviour patterns with the real-time images collected by closed circuit television (CCTV) to detect particular types of abnormal behaviours, including suicide by hanging, self-harm by banging against the wall and fighting, etc. If any preset pattern of abnormal behaviour is detected, the System will instantly raise an alarm to alert the correctional officers on duty for immediate follow-up action to ensure that PICs are constantly under close supervision between patrols.

(iii) “Passage Surveillance System”

The “Passage Surveillance System” with the capacity to trace the real-time locations of PICs is being tested in a designated passage of Lo Wu Correctional Institution. With sensors installed in the institution and the signals from the “smart wristbands” worn by PICs, the System can determine the real-time locations of PICs. If a PIC deviates from the originally prescribed route of movement, the System will instantly raise an alarm to alert the correctional officers for follow-up action as soon as possible. This helps enhance the daily operational efficiency of the institution and strengthen the monitoring of PICs.

Besides, in 2018, funding has been reserved under the TechConnect (which is a “Block Vote”) of the Innovation and Technology Bureau for CSD to extend the trial of the “Health Signs Monitoring System” and “Video Analytic Monitoring System” to designated 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 cells and the centre hospital of Pik Uk Prison). The total non-recurrent expenditure involved is about \$19 million. In 2019, CSD will formulate plans and procure the relevant equipment and services for the two projects.

3. CSD, in collaboration with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, has jointly developed with a local start-up company the “smart wristband” for pairing up with the “Health Signs Monitoring System” in monitoring the physical conditions of PICs, or with the “Passage Surveillance System” in monitoring PICs’ real-time locations and route of movement. A total of 150 wristbands were procured for the 2 trials.

At present, CSD has not procured any CCTV cameras with facial recognition function.

4. In 2016, CSD was granted \$352.75 million by the Legislative Council to develop the Integrated Custodial and Rehabilitation Management System (iCRMS) and to enhance the capacity of the existing information technology infrastructure for improving operational efficiency in the long run, so as to provide a good foundation for CSD’s use of innovation and technology in the future. The relevant project includes establishing a core network, and enhancing network safety and flexibility of network connection. 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, with greater flexibility and expansion capacity for developing “Smart Prison”, and 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.

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