

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB371

(Question Serial No. 4054)

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 details, work progress, future work plans, and the manpower and expenditure involved in respect of improvements on vocational training facilities for persons in custody by the Correctional Services Department in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 121)

Reply:

In the past 3 years, having regard to the situation of the local employment market, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) 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 each year. 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. The new courses offered in recent years include Foundation Certificate in Plumber Training for Interior Renovation (Intermediate Trade Test), Foundation Certificate in Pet Sitter, Foundation Certificate in Preparation for Intermediate Trade Test for Floor Layer (Timber Flooring) of Interior Renovation and Foundation Certificate in AutoCAD in Renovation Drawings, etc. 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. CSD provided young PICs with 20 vocational training courses every year, 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 reviews the contents of vocational training courses from time to time, and adjusts the courses according to the employment rate of particular industries and the response of PICs. Moreover, CSD regularly reviews 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.

In addition to subsidised courses provided by training bodies such as the Employees Retraining Board and the Construction Industry Council, CSD's expenditures on further improving vocational training provided for PICs (including manpower and courses etc.) in the financial years of 2016-19 are tabulated below:

Year	2016-17 (Actual Expenditure)	2017-18 (Actual Expenditure)	2018-19 (Revised Estimate)	2019-20 (Estimate)
Expenditures on Vocational Training (\$ million)	28.07	28.51	28.74	28.99
Number of Staff Involved (persons)	23	22	22	22

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