

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB384**

**(Question Serial No. 6450)**

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (1) Prison Management

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. Are training and guidelines provided to frontline officers on the use of necessary force on persons in custody (PICs) at “B Hall” of Pik Uk Correctional Institution? In what circumstances will force be used on young offenders? If correctional officers consider necessary force should be used, how can they ensure that no excess injury will be caused to subdued PICs?
2. What types of supplementary equipment or weapons are provided to frontline officers at “B Hall” of Pik Uk Correctional Institution to prevent PICs from committing indiscipline acts?
3. Regarding the use of necessary force on PICs, what are the specific contents of the guidelines for frontline officers? How can the Department ensure that correctional officers will not abuse their power?
4. Are PICs informed of the possibility of being applied necessary force by CSD staff when they are admitted into prisons? And are they informed of the rights concerned?
5. What is the average cost for each occasion of subduing PICs with necessary force?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (LegCo internal reference no.: 429)

Reply:

By virtue of the obligation and power conferred by law, the Correctional Services Department is committed to ensuring a secure, safe, humane, decent and healthy custodial environment.

Rule 237 of the Prison Rules (Cap. 234A) stipulates that no correctional officer in dealing with persons in custody (PICs) shall use force unnecessarily and, when the application of force to a PIC is necessary, no more force than is necessary shall be used. The appropriate force to be used by correctional officers against PICs should be non-lethal, defensive and minimal to prevent correctional officers themselves, PICs or other persons from being harmed.

Every correctional officer undergoes professional tactics, self-defense and scenario training to learn how to use different types of equipment and how to respond in emergency situations. Correctional officers are generally equipped with oleoresin capsicum foam and extendable truncheons when supervising PICs.

When applying appropriate force, correctional officers shall give warning to the concerned PIC in order to give him/her an opportunity to obey their instructions and cease resistance. Correctional officers handle resistance of PICs by verbal advice and counselling in the vast majority of cases. In the event that a PIC continues to resist or raises the level of resistance, correctional officers may use appropriate force whenever circumstances warrant.

All PICs newly admitted into correctional institutions will be arranged to undergo an induction programme during which the staff will explain to them their rights. In addition, through the "Information Booklet for Persons in Custody" issued to them and the electronic kiosks located at different places in the institutions, they will learn the details of various rights. PICs who feel aggrieved may lodge complaints or air their grievances through various internal and external channels.

As maintaining order of institutions and handling emergencies are part of the daily duties of correctional officers, the Department does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure incurred.

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