

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB321

(Question Serial No. 3077)

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:

In response to the outbreak of the “Wuhan pneumonia”, the mask production workshop under Correctional Services Industries (CSI) has been switched to a 24-hour operation. Female persons in custody (PICs) in Lo Wu Correctional Institution (LWCI) are asked to work with full vigour to ramp up production.

1. What are the shift arrangement and work schedule of the mask production workshop since January 2020? What criteria are adopted for choosing female PICs and volunteers to engage in the production of masks?
2. How many PICs have participated in mask production since the mask production workshop extended its operating hours and introduced an overnight shift in January 2020? What are the total working hours?
3. What were the earnings for PICs working in the mask production workshop before December 2019? Have the earnings of PICs been adjusted since the mask production workshop extended its operating hours and introduced an overnight shift in January 2020? If yes, what is the increase in their earnings? What is the rise in percentage?
4. It is learnt that the mask production workshop under CSI has begun to invite volunteers to assist in the urgent production of masks since January 2020. How many volunteers have participated in mask production? What are the total working hours?
5. What is the cost/expenditure incurred for arranging volunteers to work in the mask production workshop under CSI? What is the daily expense incurred for providing transport service for volunteers?
6. Regarding the mask production workshop under CSI, what are the respective daily and monthly expenses on earnings of PICs and on arranging volunteers to assist in mask production? What are the proportions of these expenses?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (LegCo internal reference no.: 293)

Reply:

In the light of the development of the COVID-19, it is necessary to increase the mask production output. Therefore, the mask production workshop in Lo Wu Correctional Institution (LWCI) has been switched to a 3-shift, 24-hour operation since early February 2020. In addition to about 100 persons in custody (PICs) engaged in mask production, over 1 200 off-duty and retired correctional officers have been recruited to help out on a voluntary basis, raising the output from about 1.1 million to about 2.5 million per month. All persons engaged in mask production are required to undergo prior health screening.

Since early March, an additional filter mask workshop has been set up in LWCI. Mask production machines will be arriving in a progressive manner, and the mask production output is expected to be further increased.

Volunteers participating in mask production do not receive any remuneration. The pick-up transport service for them is financed by philanthropic sponsorships from the community.

Under the existing mechanism, the earnings of PICs are determined having regard to the knowledge and technical requirements, working environment and work-rest schedule of each position, etc. Although the working hours of PICs on night shift are the same as those of other PICs, they are entitled to higher earnings since their work-rest schedule is different from that for normal shifts.

PICs working night shifts will be given break time, during which late-night snacks will be provided. All PICs working night shifts are on a voluntary basis.

Currently, all PICs on night shift belong to the Skilled Grade, i.e. Grade F (the highest earning grade). Please refer to the following table for details:

Earnings Scheme for PICs

Earnings per week for adult PICs (effective from 1 August 2017)

Rate scale	Earning grade	Earnings per week (HK\$)
Basic rate*	-	24.60
Apprentice	A	46.39
	B	54.93
	C	62.49
	D	79.54
	E	96.39
	F	112.71
Skilled	A	66.58
	B	83.16

C	99.75
D	132.67
E	166.37
F	199.77

- * PICs who are unable to work due to medical reasons, or newly admitted convicted persons who are undergoing an induction programme and have not yet been assigned work are eligible for the basic earning grade.

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