

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB733

(Question Serial No. 5741)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please list the courses provided by the Correctional Services Department for persons in custody (PICs) in the past 5 years and the current year with a breakdown by course name, target PICs, course duration, course description, the correctional facilities providing such courses and the expenditures involved.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 568)

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) provides half-day compulsory education for young persons in custody (PICs) aged between 14 and 20, and arranges qualified teachers to teach the subjects. The education courses currently provided by institutions for young PICs are similar to those provided in the past 5 years. Details are as follows:

| Correctional Institution | Course Description | Course Duration |
|---|--|---|
| Pik Uk Correctional Institution | Secondary curriculum, including general and practical subjects such as Chinese, English, Mathematics, Liberal Studies and Computer Application, etc., is provided. The New Senior Secondary curriculum is also provided for PICs at Pik Uk Correctional Institution, Cape Collinson Correctional Institution and Lai King Correctional Institution. | Arrangements are made having regard to the length of sentence and individual cases. |
| Cape Collinson Correctional Institution | | |
| Lai King Correctional Institution | | |
| Lai Sun Correctional Institution | | |

| Correctional Institution | Course Description | Course Duration |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Lai Chi Rehabilitation Centre | (1) The “Teen’s Programme” at the junior secondary level is provided. The curriculum covers basic education curriculum (including Chinese, English, Mathematics and Liberal Studies) and vocational training. The course is recognised by the Vocational Training Council. | (1) 120 hours of basic education curriculum and 180 hours of vocational training |
| Chi Lan Rehabilitation Centre | | |

Besides, CSD has introduced Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education and organised relevant educational activities in institutions for young PICs to arouse their interest in these learning areas and enhance their creativity, coordination and problem-solving skills.

CSD also encourages adult PICs to pursue further studies, enrol in distance learning courses in their spare time according to their interests and abilities, and take public examinations under the users-pay principle. Correctional institutions provide appropriate assistance to PICs. For example, CSD has set up a number of education funds and subsidy schemes for PICs to apply for financial assistance if they want to pursue further studies but have difficulties in paying for public examination fees, tuition fees for distance learning courses or purchasing reference books. These funds and subsidy schemes are contributed by donations from charitable organisations and the community.

CSD’s expenditure on education is mainly spent on education provided for young PICs. The relevant expenditures in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | 2015-16 (Actual expenditure) | 2016-17 (Actual expenditure) | 2017-18 (Actual expenditure) | 2018-19 (Actual expenditure) | 2019-20 (Revised estimate) |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Expenditure on education (\$ million) | 34.33 | 34.89 | 35.80 | 37.89 | 40.11 |

On vocational training, CSD has been collaborating with various training bodies such as the Employees Retraining Board, the Construction Industry Council (CIC) and the Vocational Training Council to provide, having regard to the situation of the local employment market, vocational training courses to lawfully residing adult PICs who are due for discharge within 24 months and eligible for employment. In the past 5 years, about 40 full-time and part-time vocational training courses providing a total of over 1 400 training places were organised for their 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. CSD regularly reviews the courses with various training bodies and introduces diversified and market-oriented vocational training courses. For example, in 2019-20, new courses such as Virtual Reality Welding, Virtual Reality Visual Merchandising and Retail Management as well as Car Beauty and Wrapping were offered. In 2020-21, new foundation certificate courses in Specialty Cakes and Pastries Making, 3D Printing Technology and Virtual Reality Logistics Management will be organised. Eligible adult PICs can enrol in these courses on a voluntary basis, and arrangements will be made for them to 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, CSD provides 18 compulsory half-day vocational training courses apart from half-day compulsory education. The courses cover information technology, construction, business, food and beverage, beauty care, laundry services and service industries, etc. In recent years, new elements including Installation of Smart Home System, Interior Design and 3D Rendering as well as Digital Audio Visual Production have been introduced. The duration of these courses ranges from 2 to 6 months. Arrangements are made to facilitate the trainees to sit for the examinations held by the accreditation bodies, such as the certification examinations of the City and Guilds of London Institute and the intermediate trade tests of CIC.

CSD's expenditures on vocational training are tabulated as follows:

| Year | 2015-16 (Actual expenditure) | 2016-17 (Actual expenditure) | 2017-18 (Actual expenditure) | 2018-19 (Actual expenditure) | 2019-20 (Revised estimate) |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Expenditure on vocational training (\$ million) | 31.01 | 28.07 | 28.51 | 28.74 | 30.10 |

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