

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB765

(Question Serial No. 6395)

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:

1. Please list the numbers of persons in custody (PICs) kept in special cells (e.g. single cells), distribution of length of confinement (e.g. 7 days, 14 days, 21 days and 28 days) and reasons for the confinement in various correctional institutions and prisons in the past 5 years.
2. What are the expenditures on the arrangement for separate confinement of PICs and their breakdowns?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (LegCo internal reference no.: 259)

Reply:

By virtue of the duties and power conferred by law, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) is committed to ensuring a secure, safe, humane, decent and healthy custodial environment. In accordance with the Prison Rules (Cap. 234A), CSD is empowered to impose separate confinement as punishment on persons in custody (PICs) who have committed offences against prison discipline, and to order the removal of PICs from association if the Department has reasonable grounds for believing that it is desirable to do so for the maintenance of good order or discipline or in the interests of PICs. PICs can also apply on their own initiative for removal from association with other PICs in view of their own circumstances such as special criminal background.

The numbers of cases involving PICs being removed from association, distribution of length of removal from association and the numbers of disciplinary cases involving PICs being imposed separate confinement as punishment in the past 5 years are tabulated below (as at 31 December of the year):

Year	Distribution of length of removal from association				Total number of cases involving PICs being removed from association (Note)	Disciplinary cases involving PICs being imposed separate confinement as punishment
	Under 72 hours	72 hours to 1 month	1 month to not longer than 4 months	Above 4 months		
2019	427(6)	249(19)	133(31)	20(20)	829	3 181
2018	750(10)	239(14)	133(23)	18(17)	1 140	3 462
2017	854(8)	277(23)	104(13)	14(14)	1 249	3 631
2016	813(17)	291(23)	136(11)	15(14)	1 255	3 297
2015	776(14)	339(22)	139(19)	13(13)	1 267	2 905

() Cases involving PICs applying for removal from association.

Note: Over half of the cases involved PICs suspected of having internal concealment of dangerous drugs and they were removed from association as a security measure to deter the smuggling of dangerous drugs into correctional institutions. Separately, nearly 6% of the cases involved PICs applying on their own initiative for removal from association in view of their own circumstances (such as special criminal background).

As the management of PICs being imposed separate confinement is part of the daily management work of CSD, the Department does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure involved in handling these PICs.

- End -