

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB776

(Question Serial No. 6408)

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. Please list the recorded numbers of cases in which frontline officers used “necessary force” in various prisons and correctional institutions in the past 5 years. What were the reasons for using “necessary force”? Please provide a breakdown with explanation.
2. Please list the recorded numbers of persons in custody and staff members injured due to the use of “necessary force” in various prisons in the past 5 years.
3. Please list the auxiliary equipment employed when using “necessary force”. What is the expenditure involved? Please provide a breakdown with explanation.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (LegCo internal reference no.: 274)

Reply:

1. & 2. 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.

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.

The reasons for correctional officers using necessary force on PICs include stopping PICs from self-harm or abnormal behaviour, fighting among themselves and attacking correctional officers or other persons, etc. The numbers of PICs and correctional officers injured due to such incidents which were intervened by correctional officers, and the numbers of cases in which correctional officers used necessary force in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Year	Number of PICs injured	Number of correctional officers injured	Number of cases involving the use of necessary force
2019	93	40	69
2018	64	39	70
2017	93	23	87
2016	118	73	126
2015	68	82	75

3. Correctional officers are generally equipped with oleoresin capsicum foam and extendable truncheons during supervision of PICs. Since the information about the expenditure on and quantity of the relevant equipment procured by CSD involves operational deployment details, it is not appropriate to disclose such information.

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