

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB779**

**(Question Serial No. 6414)**

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:

Rule 237 of the Prison Rules (Cap. 234A) stipulates that no correctional officer in dealing with persons in custody (PICs) shall use force unnecessarily.

1. Please list the records of non-compliant CSD staff using force unnecessarily with a breakdown. If there are no such records, what are the reasons?
2. Are the existing closed circuit television (CCTV) systems and complaints mechanism effective enough to deter staff members from using force unnecessarily? How can the Department prove their effectiveness?
3. What is the total expenditure on CCTV systems incurred by the Department? How many CCTVs are installed in each institution? What is the average cost of each CCTV?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (LegCo internal reference no.: 277)

Reply:

1. In the past 5 years (2015 – 2019), there was 1 recorded case in which a staff member used force unnecessarily in the Correctional Services Department (CSD). The staff member concerned was punished as appropriate.
2. At present, a total of about 7 000 closed circuit televisions (CCTV) are installed in correctional institutions. The Department is planning to extend the coverage of CCTV systems in institutions gradually to enhance the effectiveness of monitoring function so as to combat and prevent indiscipline acts and illicit activities in institutions, with a view to protecting the safety of correctional officers in the course of law enforcement and ensuring the safety of persons in custody (PICs).

Besides, CSD all along attaches great importance to complaints lodged by any persons, regardless of whether they are PICs or discharged persons. If aggrieved by any treatment they received, they may lodge complaints or air their grievances through various internal or external channels.

Internal channels include complaining to the institutional management, directorate officers of the CSD Headquarters during their inspection to the correctional institutions or the Complaints Investigation Unit (CIU) of CSD. CIU will carry out investigation on each and every complaint case in a fair, impartial and comprehensive manner, or make a referral to other law enforcement agencies for follow-up action according to its circumstances.

As for external channels, PICs may write to Members of the Legislative Council, The Ombudsman, statutory bodies, other law enforcement agencies or government bureaux, etc. to lodge their complaints. Besides, they may choose to seek assistance from or lodge their complaints to the visiting Justices of the Peace directly during the latter's surprise inspections to the institutions and request that they be allowed to see the Justices of the Peace alone.

The Office of The Ombudsman (the Office), as the independent and statutory organisation for handling complaints against government departments, may initiate independent investigation into the complaints. If necessary, the Office may request CSD to assist in the investigation by providing information (such as CCTV footage), or even conduct site inspections and interview the complainants.

PICs have the right to see their legal advisors. They may also request that they be allowed to see those specified persons prescribed by law, such as Members of the Legislative Council and District Councils. Staff members of CSD will not be present at their interviews with the above persons, and thus will not know the contents of interviews.

CSD also reviews and enhances the complaints handling mechanism from time to time with a view to increasing the transparency and credibility of the Department in handling complaints in an open, fair and impartial manner.

To widen the structure of the Correctional Services Department Complaints Appeal Board (CSDCAB) and further strengthen the mechanism to scrutinise appeals, the number of members of CSDCAB was increased to 24 in July 2019. Apart from Justices of the Peace, religious persons who are acquainted with correctional operations were also appointed. The independence of CSDCAB ensures that appeal cases are handled fairly.

CSD adopts a zero tolerance policy against violations of regulations by its staff. As disciplined services, CSD demands strict discipline. The conduct of individual staff members will be monitored by different levels of officers in the management. If any indiscipline act of a staff member is confirmed, the Department will take disciplinary action against the staff member concerned. If it is suspected that illegal acts are committed, the Department will refer those cases to other law enforcement agencies for follow-up action.

3. As mentioned above, about 7 000 CCTVs are installed in correctional institutions. The average cost of each CCTV in various correctional institutions varies owing to differences in locations, year of completion, building structures, design of institutions and time of installation and update of CCTV systems, and thus it cannot be generalised.

A breakdown of project estimates for major projects of replacement and enhancement of the CCTV systems is tabulated as follows:

	(i) Head 708 Capital Subventions and Major Systems and Equipment		(ii) Head 30 Correctional Services Department Subhead 603 Plant, vehicles and equipment							
Replacement and enhancement of the CCTV systems	Stanley Prison	Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution and Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre	Tai Lam Correctional Institution, Tong Fuk Correctional Institution and Tung Tau Correctional Institution	Pik Uk Prison	Hei Ling Chau Correctional Institution	Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre	Lai Sun Correctional Institution	Cape Collinson Correctional Institution	Pik Uk Correctional Institution (Note)	Lo Wu Correctional Institution (Note)
Number of CCTVs installed	about 2 470	about 900	about 1 400	639	508	563	235	300	255	3 699
<b>Total Project Estimate (\$ million)</b>	<b>162.680</b>	<b>51.546</b>	<b>75.724</b>	<b>37.409</b>	<b>108.210</b>	<b>98.701</b>	<b>40.944</b>	<b>55.450</b>	<b>13.507</b>	<b>241.330</b>
Building services works for server & control rooms (\$ million)	29.000	12.576	6.090	1.510	19.104	2.300	/	5.544	/	19.500
CCTV cameras (\$ million)	41.400	9.240	14.571	7.868	22.864	17.944	1.666	1.408	0.736	23.624
Control and surveillance system (\$ million)	12.540	5.390	11.667	8.133	2.303	3.605	2.565	3.605	0.622	10.000
Video storage system (\$ million)	24.350	4.060	9.890	5.720	1.500	1.500	1.200	2.200	0.310	14.900
Network and cabling system (\$ million)	15.930	4.280	8.501	1.878	5.320	5.320	3.700	7.429	1.566	11.836
System infrastructure and associated building services (\$ million)	10.400	5.330	9.381	4.580	6.630	14.380	8.750	6.700	2.385	36.990
Other additional component (video analytic function to help enhance institutional security) (\$ million)	/	/	/	/	30.843	33.759	14.615	18.266	5.100	73.980
Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund project management services (\$ million)	15.700	6.570	9.615	4.750	12.090	12.241	5.199	6.338	1.716	30.500
Contingencies (\$ million)	13.360	4.100	6.009	2.970	7.556	7.652	3.249	3.960	1.072	20.000

(Note: The funding is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2020.)

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