

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB164

(Question Serial No. 1653)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Re-integration

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned under Programme (2) that the Correctional Services Department (CSD) will provide opportunities for adult persons in custody (PICs) under the Prison Programme to engage in useful work and vocational training so as to help them develop good working habits and acquire work skills with a view to facilitating their re-integration upon release. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. How many types of vocational training courses are provided by CSD to adult PICs currently?
2. In connection with the above question, please provide a breakdown, by vocational training courses, of the number of adult PICs attending the above-mentioned courses.
3. In connection with the above question, what are the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

In 2020-21, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) continued to collaborate with various training bodies (including the Employees Retraining Board, the Construction Industry Council and the Vocational Training Council, etc.), having regard to the situation of the local employment market, to provide over 40 full-time and part-time vocational training courses with more than 1 400 training places for lawfully residing adult persons in custody (PICs) who are due for discharge within 24 months and eligible for employment to enrol on a voluntary basis and obtain recognised qualifications to enhance their employability and help them enrol in bridging or progressive courses in future with a view to facilitating their smooth re-integration into society after release. 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. In recent years,

CSD has proactively introduced new courses on innovative skills and technologies, including 3D Designing and Printing Skills, Virtual Reality Logistics Management, Virtual Reality Welding and Virtual Reality Visual Merchandising and Retail Management. A course on Virtual Reality Interior Design will also be introduced this year.

Due to the situation of the pandemic, some courses have to be postponed or cancelled. As at the end of February 2021, a total of 899 adult PICs attended various vocational training courses, which was smaller than the number of training places provided. Besides, in 2021-22, CSD's estimated expenditure on vocational training for PICs is about \$30.29 million, including the expenses for the 22 staff on establishment and the provision of courses. As the expenditure and work of the staff on establishment mentioned above cover the arrangement and coordination of all vocational training courses for both adult and young PICs, the Department does not maintain a separate breakdown of the estimated expenditure on courses for adult PICs.

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