

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB123**

**(Question Serial No. 2742)**

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Following the announcement of “The Chief Executive’s 2022 Policy Address”, the Secretary for Security once said that the Government would work with the business sector to arrange for young persons in custody who wished to seek employment in the Mainland to work in the Mainland cities in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) upon release. In this connection, would the Government please advise this Committee on the following:

1. Whether this proposed initiative will be officially rolled out by the Correctional Services Department (CSD)? If yes, (a) the manpower and expenditure on remuneration to be involved; (b) the training expenses to be earmarked; (c) the number of commercial/non-governmental organisations with which the Government will seek co-operation; and (d) the estimated number of discharged prisoners who will benefit each year. If no, what are the reasons?
2. Before the Security Bureau (SB) proposed to arrange for rehabilitated young offenders to work in the Mainland cities in GBA, has SB liaised with the government authorities and enterprises in the Mainland? If yes, how did they respond; if no, what are the reasons?
3. If the proposed initiative is officially put into implementation, how can CSD maintain connection with the rehabilitated young offenders during their employment or internship in the Mainland, so as to monitor the effectiveness of their rehabilitation?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, Joephy (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

1. After the announcement of the initiative in “The Chief Executive’s 2022 Policy Address”, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) has been making its best endeavours to implement the initiative. In late October 2022, without utilising extra manpower and resources, CSD launched the “Project JET” in collaboration with organisations in different sectors. The project provides “one-stop” training and career development opportunities for persons in custody (PICs) to participate on a voluntary basis, with a view to encouraging them to make life planning early, so that they can contribute to society after release by utilising their talents. Activities under the project include (1) life planning: to provide talks and workshops on life planning for PICs in

correctional institutions; (2) in-house training: to provide relevant professional training for PICs; (3) post-release internship: to provide post-release internship opportunities in Hong Kong or the Greater Bay Area (GBA) for PICs who have completed relevant training; (4) official employment: to offer full-time employment to rehabilitated persons with good performance during the internship; and (5) a mentoring scheme: to match rehabilitated persons with appropriate mentors as life mentors to teach them work skills and provide life education during their internship and after official employment.

As at 28 February 2023, 9 organisations in different sectors have participated in the above project, including 3 enterprises providing internship and job vacancies in GBA, covering various types of work such as management agent, administrative work, online sales, etc. Meanwhile, 8 rehabilitated persons under statutory supervision after release have been offered employment, with 2 of them having job offers in GBA.

2. Regarding the arrangement for rehabilitated young offenders to work in the Mainland cities in GBA, CSD has gained support from relevant authorities in the Mainland prior to the implementation of such arrangement.

Since the launch of the “Project JET”, CSD has proactively approached large enterprises and organisations in various sectors, including enterprises with business development in GBA, for job vacancies in Hong Kong and GBA to be provided for rehabilitated young offenders. The organisations that have been approached are generally supportive and pleased to participate in the project. CSD plans to introduce the “Rehabilitation Partners Award Scheme” in 2023 to give recognition to individuals or groups, including non-governmental organisations, enterprises, employers, etc., for their continuous support for rehabilitation work, so as to encourage all sectors of the community to make a joint effort to support rehabilitated persons.

3. According to the laws of Hong Kong, PICs released under certain correctional programmes (e.g. Detention Centre Programme, Training Centre Programme, Rehabilitation Centre Programme, Drug Addiction Treatment Centre Programme, etc.) are subject to statutory supervision. If a supervisee needs to leave Hong Kong and stay in the Mainland or overseas for reasons such as employment or studies during the supervision period, the supervising officer will maintain connection with the supervisee via letters or telephone, so as to understand the supervisee’s life in the Mainland or overseas. The supervising officer will also ask the supervisee to produce supporting documents on his/her studies or employment for verification. When the supervisee returns to Hong Kong, the supervising officer will hold an interview with the supervisee as soon as possible to understand his/her progress of rehabilitation.

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