

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB125**

**(Question Serial No. 1756)**

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:

Under this Programme, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) aims to facilitate the re-integration of persons in custody into the community as law-abiding citizens. Publicity and education activities will be organised to appeal for community acceptance of and support for rehabilitated offenders. In this connection, please advise this Committee on:

- a) the expenditures spent on organising publicity and education activities by CSD in the past 3 years;
- b) the numbers of publicity and education activities held in the past 3 years, and their content and numbers of participants;
- c) the numbers of trainees of the Rehabilitation Pioneer Project and a breakdown of expenditure involved in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

- a) The departmental expenditures spent on organising publicity and education activities by the Correctional Services Department (CSD) in the past 3 years are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 <sup>^</sup>
<b>Total departmental expenditure</b>	\$1,653,336	\$2,315,981	\$1,124,198

<sup>^</sup>Affected by the COVID-19 epidemic, some of the publicity and education activities had to be cancelled.

- b) CSD has been committed to organising publicity activities for offender rehabilitation targeting district organisations, general public, young people and students. These publicity activities include rehabilitation activities in 18 districts co-organised with the District Fight Crime Committees, Hong Kong Brands and Products Expo, Hong Kong Flower Show, and publicising various rehabilitation activities via social media and platforms, etc.

As regards activities targeting young people and students, CSD has implemented the Rehabilitation Pioneer Project (RPP) since September 2008. With young people and senior primary students as its major target participants, RPP aims to disseminate the messages of “safeguarding our country and home, leading a law-abiding and drug-free life as well as supporting offender rehabilitation” through 12 community education activities. These activities include education talks, Personal Encounter with Prisoners Scheme under which young people are arranged to meet persons in custody, Green Haven Scheme, visits to the Hong Kong Correctional Services Museum, Student Forum, Extended Training Camp, Drama and Music Performance of “Creation and Rehabilitation”, Summer Tour, The Reflective Path under which participants can experience life in custody, Rehabilitation Pioneer Leaders, Mission in Prison which is based on the concept of escape room activity, and the education promotion vehicle “Rehabilitation Express” newly launched in 2022, etc.

In the past 3 years, the relevant statistics on the activities under RPP are as follows:

Name of activities	2020	2021	2022
	Number of activities (Number of participants)		
1. Education talk	51 (6 126)	79 (14 091)	87 (17 024)
2. Personal Encounter with Prisoners Scheme	4 (79)	15 (182)	(Note 1)
3. Green Haven Scheme	(Note 2)	1 (11)	1 (9)
4. Visit to the Hong Kong Correctional Services Museum	1 (37)	4 (119)	13 (339)
5. Student Forum	1 (240)	16 (4 938)	1 (1 920)(Note 6)
6. Extended Training Camp	(Note 3)		
7. Drama and Music Performance of “Creation and Rehabilitation”			
8. Summer Tour			
9. The Reflective Path	4 (107)	19 (479)	33 (733)
10. Rehabilitation Pioneer Leaders (RPL)	See paragraph c)		
11. Mission in Prison (MIP)	(Note 4)	109 (2 449)	44 (811)(Note 6)
12. Rehabilitation Express (RehEx)	(Note 5)		25 (4 263)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>61 (6 589)</b>	<b>243 (22 269)</b>	<b>204 (25 099)</b>

Note 1: The Personal Encounter with Prisoners Scheme was not held in 2022 due to the epidemic.

Note 2: The Green Haven Scheme was not held in 2020 due to the epidemic.

Note 3: The Extended Training Camp, the Drama and Music Performance of “Creation and Rehabilitation” and Summer Tour were not held in 2020, 2021 and 2022 due to the epidemic.

Note 4: MIP was launched in April 2021.

Note 5: RehEx was launched in November 2022.

Note 6: Some of the activities had to be cancelled due to the epidemic.

- c) Among the 12 community education activities under RPP, only RPL operates on a membership basis. The numbers of trainees of RPL in the past 5 years are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of trainees of RPL</b>
2018 <sup>(Note7)</sup>	30
2019	60
2020	101
2021	174
2022	234

*Note 7: RPL was established in July 2018.*

The operating costs of RPL are mainly met by donations from the community and no government expenditures are involved.

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