

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB130

(Question Serial No. 1014)

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:

The Rehabilitation Division of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) is responsible for the re-integration programme for persons in custody (PICs). This work involves conducting community education, publicity and public engagement activities to enhance young people's sense of national identity and national security awareness. Besides, the matters requiring special attention in 2023-24 include providing market-oriented and socially recognised vocational training courses for PICs.

In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. The work details and estimated expenditure involved in the net increase of 4 posts in 2023-24 under Programme (2);
2. The manpower, expenditure and work details involved in CSD's work to enhance young people's sense of national identity and national security awareness; and
3. The types and content of vocational training courses, and whether there are any statistics on the level of acceptance of PICs' re-integration into society. If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

1. The creation of 5 posts (i.e. a net increase of 4 posts following the reduction of 1 post at the same time) in 2023-24 under Programme (2) is for the operation of 5 Multi-purpose Family and Rehabilitation Service Centres (MFRSC) under the Correctional Services Department (CSD). The setting up of MFRSC aims to provide psychological and counselling services for rehabilitated offenders and their families, as well as a video social visit service for relatives and friends of persons in custody (PICs), so that visitors who are unable to visit correctional institutions due to old age, pregnancy, disabilities or other special reasons can make an appointment for a video visit, thereby strengthening the connection between PICs and their relatives and friends. The additional expenditure involved in the net increase of 4 posts under Programme (2) is \$2,568,960.

2. CSD has been organising different educational activities and visits under the Rehabilitation Pioneer Project (RPP) for participants such as students and young people, etc. In 2022, a total of 604 activities were held with the number of participants reaching 25 099. RPP is mainly implemented by staff on establishment responsible for RPP. It aims to disseminate to participants the messages of “safeguarding our country and home, leading a law-abiding and drug-free life as well as supporting offender rehabilitation”, so as to reduce crime and create a safer and more inclusive Hong Kong.

At present, staff members dedicated for implementing RPP include 2 Principal Officers, 3 Officers, 3 Assistant Officers I and 10 Assistant Officers II. The estimated expenditure on RPP in 2023-24 is \$372,000.

3. CSD has been collaborating 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 vocational training courses with more than 1 400 full-time and part-time training places for lawfully residing adult PICs who are due for discharge within 24 months and eligible for employment to enrol on a voluntary basis and obtain recognised qualifications after taking relevant examinations, thereby enhancing their employability and helping them enrol in bridging or progressive courses in the future, with a view to facilitating their re-integration into society after release. These courses cover a wide range of industries such as construction, engineering, business, food and beverage, retail, beauty care, transport, logistics, laundry services, computer application and environmental services, etc.

As for young PICs, CSD currently provides 13 half-day vocational training courses covering commercial practice, creative multimedia production, coffee house operations, Western pastry and dessert making, building services and beauty care, etc.

In 2022, the employment rate of rehabilitated offenders within 6 months of employment follow-up period after release was 82.6%.

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