Reply Serial No.

SB162

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3422)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Assuming the occupancy rate is 100%, please list in the following table the average annual education and vocational training cost per person in custody (PIC) in various types of institutions in the past 5 financial years:

Average annual education and vocational training cost per PIC ($)	Prison	Training Centre	Detention Centre	Rehabilitation Centre	Drug Addiction Treatment Centre
2017-18					
2018-19					
2019-20					
2020-21					
2021-22					

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 275)

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) provides half-day compulsory education for young persons in custody (PICs) aged between 14 and 20 and arranges for qualified teachers to teach the subjects, having regard to the length of sentences and learning needs of young PICs. PICs who were studying post-secondary programmes before imprisonment may contact their tertiary institutions for suitable modes of study and learning materials. CSD would assist PICs upon their requests to continue to study the relevant programmes at correctional institutions. PICs may also enrol in distance learning courses offered by the Hong Kong Metropolitan University according to their interests and abilities. Correctional institutions would provide appropriate assistance to them.

On vocational training, 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.

The above mixed operation mode has been adopted in vocational training for flexible deployment of internal resources and those of collaborating training bodies to meet the changing market needs, with a view to enhancing PICs' employability after release and providing them with opportunities for advanced vocational training.   Therefore, the expenditure on vocational training courses is recorded on a yearly basis.

CSD's expenditures on vocational training and PICs' education in the past 5 financial years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2018-19 (Actual expenditure)	2019-20 (Actual expenditure)	2020-21 (Actual expenditure)	2021-22 (Actual expenditure)	2022-23 (Revised estimate)
Expenditure on vocational training courses ($ million)	28.74	30.29	30.38	29.9	30.45
Expenditure on education ($ million)	37.89	40.05	40.64	41.91	42.65

Since PICs' length of sentences varies and the participation of adult PICs in relevant courses is on a voluntary basis, the education and vocational training provided by correctional institutions are different.   Therefore, CSD does not calculate or maintain statistics on the average education and vocational training cost per PIC in various types of institution.

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