

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB179

(Question Serial No. 3439)

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:

Please list the recorded numbers of cases in which frontline officers used “necessary force” in various correctional institutions for young offenders aged under 21 in the past 5 years, and also the recorded numbers of young offenders under 21 and staff members injured due to the use of “necessary force” in various prisons in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 292)

Reply:

By virtue of the duties and powers conferred by law, the Correctional Services Department is committed to ensuring a secure, safe, humane, decent and healthy custodial environment.

Rule 237 of the Prison Rules (Cap. 234A) stipulates that no correctional officer in dealing with persons in custody (PICs) shall use force unnecessarily and, when the application of force to a PIC is necessary, no more force than is necessary shall be used. The appropriate force to be used by correctional officers against PICs should be non-lethal, defensive and minimal to prevent correctional officers themselves, PICs or other persons from being harmed.

The reasons for correctional officers using necessary force on PICs include stopping PICs from self-harm or resistance behaviour, fighting among themselves and attacking others, etc. The numbers of cases in which correctional officers used necessary force against young PICs and the numbers of persons injured in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Year	Number of cases involving the use of necessary force	Number of young PICs injured	Number of correctional officers injured
2022	3	2	1
2021	12	23	7
2020	4	3	2
2019	3	10	5
2018	4	4	2

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