

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB181**

**(Question Serial No. 3441)**

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 provide the records of cases in which correctional officers subdued persons in custody (PICs) with empty hands, or with the use of oleoresin capsicum foam or extendable truncheon in various prisons and correctional institutions in the past 5 years. How many records mentioned above involved female PICs, young offenders and PICs over the age of 65?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 294)

Reply:

By virtue of the duties and powers conferred by law, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) 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 numbers of cases involving the use of necessary force against PICs by correctional officers in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Year	Number of cases by type of necessary force used			Total
	Empty-hand control	Use of oleoresin capsicum foam	Empty-hand control and use of oleoresin capsicum foam	
2022	8	7	62	77
2021	12	5	84	101
2020	14	9	68	91
2019	14	5	50	69
2018	6	6	58	70

Note: In the past 5 years, no correctional officers used extendable truncheons on PICs.

CSD does not maintain a breakdown of cases involving the use of necessary force by correctional officers on PICs by age. The numbers of cases involving institutions for young PICs and female PICs respectively in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Year	Number of Cases Involving Institutions for Young PICs	Number of Cases Involving Institutions for Female PICs
2022	3	22
2021	12	24
2020	4	20
2019	3	10
2018	4	7

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