

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB182

(Question Serial No. 3557)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme:

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. In the face of the increasingly complex law and order situation in Hong Kong, will the Department enhance its staff training and equipment, etc.? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
2. On training and equipment, will the Department strengthen co-operation with relevant departments in the Mainland, including sending staff to the Mainland for training and purchasing additional security equipment from the Mainland? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

Amid the changing society, public expectations of correctional officers have been rising. In order to assist correctional officers in upgrading their professional level, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) reviews and enhances the training courses provided for new recruits and serving officers from time to time.

Newly recruited Officers and Assistant Officers are required to undergo 26-week and 23-week recruit training respectively, which covers operational knowledge, virtual reality training, on-site scenario training, tactical training, field placement at correctional institutions, national security education and integrity management, etc.

As for serving officers, CSD arranges for them to attend development training courses such as refresher courses and duty-related training courses (covering institutional operations, medical and health care, institutional security, training and management, escort support, and handling and control of emergencies, etc.). In addition, thematic courses in sign language, privacy protection of personal information, equal opportunities, sex discrimination, etc. have been introduced in recent years to enhance the quality of custodial work.

To enhance the professionalism of correctional officers, CSD has been making its best endeavours to raise the recognition and professional level of its training courses. On 1 July 2022, the Correctional Services Department Staff Training Institute was retitled as the Hong

Kong Correctional Services Academy (HKCSA). As at end-2022, HKCSA offered 7 training courses recognised under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF), including a HKQF Level 6 course entitled “Postgraduate Certificate in Correctional Governance and Leadership” (pitched at the same QF Level as a local Master’s Degree) co-organised with a local tertiary institution, which is the first of its kind in Asia.

Besides, CSD arranges for its staff to visit Mainland counterparts for learning and exchanges from time to time. For example, following the orderly resumption of normal travel of persons between Hong Kong and the Mainland upon the easing of the local epidemic situation, CSD arranged for 15 correctional officers to visit the Greater Bay Area in February this year.

As for equipment, CSD procures globally (including from the Mainland) safe and suitable equipment in accordance with the established procedures having regard to its operational needs. Since the procurement of equipment involves operational deployment details, for security reasons, CSD will not disclose such information.

- End -