

SBCR 3/2831/94

27 April 2006

Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road  
Central  
Hong Kong  
(Attn: Mr Raymond LAM)

Dear Mr LAM,

**Redevelopment of Lo Wu Correctional Institution (LWCI)**

The above subject was discussed at the LegCo Panel on Security meeting of 4 April 2006. The supplementary information requested by Members at the meeting is set out below –

- (a) Rehabilitation facilities and services to be provided in the redeveloped institutions at Lo Wu

The redeveloped institutions at Lo Wu will have comprehensive rehabilitation facilities, including multi-media learning centres, vocational workshops, parent-inmate centres, recreational centres, etc. With these facilities, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) would be able to provide a greater variety of rehabilitation services that could better meet prisoners' needs. With the added space in the new institutions, CSD would not only be able to provide individual counseling, religious or cultural/interest activities, but also enhance the vocational training and evening education for prisoners. The vocational training would include market-oriented courses on information technology, catering, hair design and beauty care. The evening education would cover courses on English, Putonghua, applied information technology,

bookkeeping/accounting, etc. Moreover, the less crowded new institutions would provide prisoners with an environment more conducive to self-study. Through self-study and taking professional examinations, prisoners may obtain recognized academic and other qualifications to better equip themselves for their re-integration into society.

- (b) Whether the Administration will plan for maximum site utilization in considering the proposed redevelopment of institutions at Chi Ma Wan in due course

The institutions at Chi Ma Wan (namely the Chi Ma Wan Correctional Institution and Chi Sun Correctional Institution), which have been considered for redevelopment under a preliminary proposal, together with the surrounding slopes, cover an area of 13 hectares. The developable area is about three hectares and the remaining 10 hectares are slope areas that are difficult for development. The existing institutions consist of one and two-storey buildings, providing a total of 616 penal places. According to the preliminary assessment by the Architectural Services Department, if the existing institutions are to be redeveloped into five-storey buildings, they could provide at most 1 600 places due to the topographical constraints of the site.

The existing access road to the institutions at Chi Ma Wan is a single-lane road for two-way traffic. If the institutions are to be expanded and the number of prisoners there be increased in the future, the existing access road has to be widened and some bends on it must be realigned so as to meet the daily operational needs of the new institutions. However, apart from having environmental implications, the widening of the existing road will also involve private land. The process would be rather complicated, and it would also take a significant period of time for local consultation. Therefore, taking into account the topographical constraints of Chi Ma Wan and the fact that its redevelopment would require greater decanting space, we propose that the LWCI be redeveloped first at this stage to

alleviate the problems of prison overcrowding and aging penal facilities.

(c) Changes in Hong Kong's population and penal population in the past 10 years

The changes in Hong Kong's overall population and penal population in the past 10 years are set out in Annex A. The penal population is affected by many factors, including the changes in the total population of Hong Kong, the crime rate of local and non-local people, and other socio-economic factors.

In forecasting the penal population, CSD mainly takes into account the estimates on arrest and prosecution provided by the Hong Kong Police Force and Immigration Department as well as the present and predicted length of prisoners' sentences. CSD has adopted this approach in forecasting the penal population since 2000 and the forecast has been quite close to the actual figures. For instance, in 2000 it was forecast that the average daily penal population in 2005 would be 12 270. The actual figure of that year was 12 247.

(d) Breakdown of penal population by offences and length of sentences

A breakdown of the penal population by categories of offences and length of sentences is at Annex B.

Yours sincerely,

( Kenneth Cheng )  
for Secretary for Security

c.c.

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(Attn: Mr KWOK Leung-ming)

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**Changes in Hong Kong's population and penal population between 1995 and 2005**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Hong Kong's mid-year population</b>	<b>Year-on-year change in %</b>	<b>Average daily penal population</b>	<b>Year-on-year change in %</b>
1995	6,156,100	+2.0	12,878	+11.6
1996	6,435,500	+4.5	13,280	+3.1
1997	6,489,300	+0.8	11,975	-9.8
1998	6,543,700	+0.8	11,396	-4.8
1999	6,606,500	+1.0	11,571	+1.5
2000	6,665,000	+0.9	11,499	-0.6
2001	6,724,900	+0.9	12,240	+6.4
2002	6,787,000	+0.9	12,412	+1.4
2003	6,803,100	+0.2	12,472	+0.5
2004	6,882,600	+1.2	13,091	+5.0
2005	6,935,900	+0.8	12,247	-6.4

**Breakdown of penal population\* by categories of offences and length of sentences**  
( 31.3.2006 )

	Categories of Offences							Total
	Against lawful authority (unlawful society or unlawful assembly, etc)	Against public morality (rape or indecent assault, etc)	Against the person (murder or wounding, etc)	Against property (robbery or theft, etc)	Against the penal code (forgery of document or currency or bribery/ corruption, etc)	Against local laws (breach of condition of stay or illegal residence in Hong Kong, etc)	Narcotic offences (trafficking in or possession of dangerous drugs, etc)	
<b>Determinate sentence</b>								
< 1 month	0	1	4	14	0	97	0	116
1 - < 3 months	8	5	8	69	2	539	6	637
3 - < 6 months	43	59	35	154	29	193	39	552
6 - < 12 months	238	72	42	361	299	361	77	1,450
12 - < 18 months	121	18	24	260	456	372	138	1,389
18 months - < 3 years	11	24	40	548	161	377	229	1,390
3 - 6 years	3	47	95	695	167	73	603	1,683
> 6 - < 10 years	0	22	48	175	36	4	288	573
10 years or above	0	25	90	77	15	1	637	845
<b>Indeterminate sentence</b>								
life imprisonment	0	5	242	3	0	0	0	250
detained under the Mental Health Ordinance	0	1	48	4	0	0	0	53
<b>Total</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>2,360</b>	<b>1,165</b>	<b>2,017</b>	<b>2,017</b>	<b>8,938</b>

\* excluding the penal population of detention centres, rehabilitation centres, training centres and addiction treatment centres because the actual release dates of the inmates in those centres within the limits of statutory terms are subject to the effectiveness of their rehabilitation or addiction treatment.