

政府總部
香港下亞厘畢道



GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

LOWER ALBERT ROAD
HONG KONG

Tel. No.: 2810 2894

Fax No.: 2868 9159

本函檔號 OUR REF: SBCR 1/5091/95 Pt. 22

來函檔號 YOUR REF: CB2/PL/SE

24 July 2009

Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council Panel on Security
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Miss Josephine So)

Dear Miss So,

**Supplementary Information Requested at the
Security Panel Meeting on 5 May 2009
Latest Development in the Provision of Rehabilitation Services
by the Correctional Services Department**

I refer to item 14 of the List of follow-up actions (LC Paper No. CB(2)1673/08-09(01)) of the Security Panel and would like to set out supplementary information below for Members' reference.

(a) Measures to encourage adult prisoners to apply for vocational training

To encourage adult prisoners to apply for vocational training offered in penal institutions, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) has put in place the following measures --

- (i) vocational training opportunities are introduced to adult prisoners at induction talks upon their admission and subsequently at special talks organised from time to time. Non-government organisations (NGOs) workers have been enlisted to introduce the benefits of vocational training to prisoners. In addition, posters of the training courses are displayed at prominent locations in all adult institutions;

- (ii) for prisoners who have been identified by CSD's officers to have vocational training needs, the Department will, via special counselling, encourage them to submit applications for training; and
- (iii) in order to enlist the support from prisoners' family members and friends, a video promoting vocational training courses is shown to visitors at the visiting facilities.

(b) Vocational training for adult prisoners with long sentences

To facilitate offender rehabilitation, CSD has been providing vocational training to prisoners to enhance their employability after release. Since the training mainly aims to help prisoners re-integrate back to society, priority of attending vocational training course is accorded to those who will soon complete their prison terms, i.e. who are due to release within three to 24 months.

Apart from the enrolment in vocational training courses, prisoners are given the opportunities to acquire job-related skills through their participation in correctional services industries. In prison workshops, prisoners will pick up skills in specific trades and may even attain external accreditation and recognised qualifications. For example, prisoners working in the printing and graphic design workshops may apply for accreditation with certificates issued by the Vocational Training Council through the Recognition of Prior Learning Mechanism under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework.

Enhancing the element of vocational training in correctional services industries is a new initiative of CSD. The Department will continue to explore opportunities for further development in this area, having regard to the operational experience gained at this initial stage.

(c) Disabled prisoners

There were 155 disabled prisoners under CSD's custody as at 9 April 2009. The breakdown by type of disabilities is set out below –

- 3 -

Type of Disabilities	Number of prisoners
Blindness	27
Deafness	18
Amputation	63
Paraplegia	4
Deformity	27
Poliomyelitis	11
Deafness & Dumbness	5
Total :	155

Disabled prisoners are provided with rehabilitative services as with other prisoners. The services include pre-sentence assessment, welfare and counselling services, psychological services, education, vocational training and supervision services, etc. To facilitate disabled prisoners in receiving rehabilitative services, the following measures have been put in place –

- (i) disabled prisoners are detained in institutions with adequate facilities that are necessary for their care and treatment. The facilities include modified toilet and bathing facilities, crutches, wheelchairs and light weight roll-in chair cot, etc. At present, all major correctional institutions provide these facilities. In addition, special services/facilities, such as physiotherapy and mechanical aids, are provided to prisoners on a need basis;
- (ii) Medical Officers, Clinical Psychologists and Rehabilitation Officers of CSD are deployed as appropriate in providing rehabilitative services to disabled prisoners. In addition, to better attend to the special needs of disabled prisoners, special training is arranged for CSD's officers. For example, sign language courses are made available to officers providing services to deaf prisoners; and
- (iii) NGOs are invited to provide visits to disabled prisoners, and to render assistance to them in making discharge arrangements, e.g. in respect of accommodation and employment.

(d) Provision of rehabilitative services to non-local prisoners

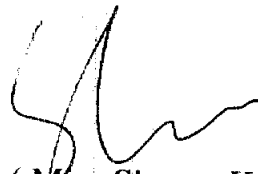
Education and vocational training are provided to all young offenders irrespective of their residency.

- 4 -

As regards vocational training provided to adult prisoners, similar to other major local vocational training programmes, its main objective is to facilitate the trainees (i.e. prisoners in CSD's context) in securing employment in Hong Kong. Against this background, vocational training is not provided to non-local prisoners in general, as they are subject to deportation upon release and are not eligible to be employed in Hong Kong. Notwithstanding the above, non-local prisoners can still acquire skills and develop essential qualities during custody that could enhance their employability after release. For example, they are helped to establish a living pattern with an organised schedule for work and rest, and lead a disciplined life, which are conducive to their rehabilitation.

CSD will keep its provision of rehabilitative services under review, and introduce new initiatives and improvement measures as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Sharon Ko)
for Secretary for Security

c.c. C of CS (Attn: Mr Lee Sheung) Fax : 2802 0184