

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)2444/11-12  
(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/SE

**Panel on Security**

**Minutes of meeting**  
**held on Tuesday, 13 March 2012, at 4:30 pm**  
**in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

**Members present** : Hon James TO Kun-sun (Chairman)  
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS  
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP  
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP  
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP  
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP  
Hon CHIM Pui-chung  
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan  
Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Hon WONG Yuk-man

**Members absent** : Hon Albert HO Chun-yan  
Dr Hon Margaret NG  
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong  
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP  
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS  
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP

**Public Officers attending** : Item IV  
  
Mr LAI Tung-kwok, SBS, IDSM, JP  
Under Secretary for Security

Mr CHOW Wing-hang  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security (D)

Mr Corrado CHOW, IDSM  
Assistant Director (Information Systems)  
Immigration Department

Miss Caroline FAN  
Chief Systems Manager (Technology Services)  
Immigration Department

Item V

Mr LAI Tung-kwok, SBS, IDSM, JP  
Under Secretary for Security

Mrs Erika HUI, JP  
Commissioner for Narcotics  
Security Bureau

Mr Alvis TSUI  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security (Narcotics) (Acting)

Mr TSANG Cheung-tat  
Chief Superintendent (Narcotics Bureau)  
Hong Kong Police Force

Mr LEE Chau-wing  
Senior Chemist  
Government Laboratory

Item VI

Mr LAI Tung-kwok, SBS, IDSM, JP  
Under Secretary for Security

Miss Bella MUI Bun-ngai  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security (B)

Mr TANG Ping-ming  
Assistant Commissioner of Correctional Services (Rehabilitation)  
Correctional Services Department

Mr LO Huen  
General Manager (Industries and Vocational Training)  
Correctional Services Department

Ms HUI Shuk-han  
Senior Clinical Psychologist 1  
Correctional Services Department

**Clerk in attendance** : Mrs Sharon TONG  
Principal Council Secretary (2)

**Staff in attendance** : Ms Connie FUNG  
Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 1

Ms Rita LAI  
Senior Council Secretary (2) 1

Mr Ian CHOW  
Council Secretary (2) 1

Ms Michelle LEE  
Legislative Assistant (2) 7

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**I. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting**  
(LC Paper No. CB(2)1302/11-12)

The minutes of the special meeting held on 12 November 2011 were confirmed.

**II. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting**  
(LC Paper No. CB(2)1092/11-12(01))

2. Members noted that a paper on a referral from the Public Complaints Office regarding "Amending the Prison Rules to allow the prisoners to make more frequent phone calls" had been issued since the last meeting. No members raised a request for discussion on the issue.

**III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion**  
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1294/11-12(01) and (02))

Regular meeting in April 2012

3. Members agreed that the following items be discussed at the regular meeting at 2:30 pm on 3 April 2012 -

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- (a) Redevelopment of disciplined services quarters in Fu Tei, Tuen Mun; and
- (b) Daya Bay Contingency Plan and Exercise Preparation.

In respect of item (b), members noted that the Chairman would discuss with the Clerk about inviting deputations to give views on the subject.

4. Ms Audrey EU expressed concern about suspected cases of child abduction by strangers which had been widely discussed on the Internet recently. Members agreed that the Administration be requested to provide information on the Police's preliminary assessment of such child abduction cases, including the statistics, investigation results and the follow-up action being taken. Subject to members' request, the subject would be discussed at the regular Panel meeting in April 2012.

*(Post-meeting note: The Administration's response was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1487/11-12 on 23 March 2012.)*

5. The Chairman informed members that the Administration would provide a paper on its "Proposed revision of fees and charges under the purview of the Hong Kong Police Force". The paper, when received, would be circulated to members to invite members' view on whether the proposal should be discussed at a Panel meeting.

*(Post-meeting note: The Administration's paper was circulated to members vide LC Paper CB(2)1502/11-12(01) on 26 March 2012.)*

Special meeting on 15 March 2012

6. The Chairman reminded members that a special meeting of the Panel would be held on Thursday, 15 March 2012 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon to continue discussion on "Review of security arrangements during visits of political dignitaries to Hong Kong" and to receive views from deputations/individuals, including representatives from the University of Hong Kong.

**IV. Security of Automated Passenger Clearance System (e-Channel)**  
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1294/11-12(03) and (04))

7. Under Secretary for Security ("US for S") and Assistant Director (Information System) ("AD(IS)") briefed members on the security measures

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adopted by the Immigration Department ("ImmD") for the Automated Passenger Clearance System ("e-Channel"), details of which were set out in the Administration's paper.

8. Referring to paragraph 6 of the Administration's paper, the Chairman sought detailed information on the technical problems and maintenance of the e-Channel concerned in respect of a press report on the security of e-Channels in January 2012.

9. AD(IS) said that after the incident, ImmD had contacted the manufacturer. An investigation and a review had been conducted on the incident. According to the press report, the reporter concerned had replicated his own fingerprint onto a piece of latex to pass through e-Channels at boundary control points but was unsuccessful at several e-Channels until he made two successful attempts at a particular e-Channel at Lo Wu Control Point. Subsequently, that particular e-Channel was closed down and the fingerprint scanner was taken down and passed on to the manufacturer for detailed examination. While awaiting a comprehensive report on the investigation, ImmD had conducted thorough testing for some 400 e-Channels by making use of the fake fingerprint provided by the reporter and other fake fingerprints of different materials. It was found that all other e-Channels were secure and reliable.

10. Ms Audrey EU was concerned that non-local pregnant women could also register to use the e-Channel service in their capacity as frequent visitors. Mr CHAN Hak-han shared the same concern. Noting the immigration control measure of arrival checking of visitors who were at an advanced stage of pregnancy (i.e. having been pregnant for 28 weeks or above) and therefore might be refused entry, except those who were able to produce their booking confirmation certificates issued by local hospitals, Ms EU sought information on the procedures for implementing the measure if non-local pregnant women used the e-Channel service. She also expressed concern about whether there was sufficient manpower in ImmD to conduct such arrival checking and whether they were empowered to request the suspected visitors to undergo a medical examination. On the understanding that only a small number of medical officers stationed at the immigration control points, she raised query as to how the advanced stage of pregnancy of the visitors could be verified if an ultrasound test was not to be conducted in the process.

11. AD(IS) advised members that -

- (a) at the immigration control points, health surveillance assistants would first assist in the assessment of visitors' body conditions

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by visual inspection regardless of their choice of using e-Channels or traditional immigration counters; and

- (b) every three e-Channels would be monitored by a gatekeeper who could focus more on the identification of advanced stage of pregnancy of visitors as the checking of travel documents, and the verification of information on immigration records were performed by the e-Channel system. The transparent design of e-Channels further facilitated the assessment of the stage of pregnancy as compared with that at the traditional immigration counter.

12. Responding to Ms Audrey EU's further enquiry about the authority of the gatekeepers, AD(IS) said that they were immigration officers who were sufficiently empowered to discharge their duties in relation to immigration control. US for S added that in accordance with section 4(1)(a) of the Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115), an immigration officer could examine any person on his arrival or landing in Hong Kong. If there was doubt on any person using the e-Channel service, he/she would be asked to undergo an immigration examination and inquiry. A person who satisfied an immigration officer that the purpose of his/her entering Hong Kong complied with prevailing immigration policy would be given permission to land or he/she would be denied entry if an immigration staff had reasonable cause to suspect his/her purpose of entering Hong Kong. The authority of the immigration officer at the e-Channels would be the same as those performing duties at the traditional immigration counters.

13. US for S said that visitors who were suspected of having an advanced stage of pregnancy would be requested to undergo an inquiry and to produce their booking confirmation certificates issued by local hospitals. Where a medical officer was present at the immigration control point, his opinion on the condition of the visitors concerned would be sought. If no medical officer was present at the control point and an immigration officer had reasonable cause for believing that the visitors concerned had the intention to give birth in Hong Kong, such non-local pregnant women might be denied entry according to the existing policy.

14. Dr PAN Pey-chyou expressed concern that the reporter concerned had made several unsuccessful attempts to pass through other e-Channels by using a fingerprint latex before he made two successful attempts at an e-Channel which functioned improperly. He sought the following information -

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- (a) the reasons for the reporter concerned not having been stopped by the immigration officers at the scene who should be attentive to suspicious elements and should therefore have spotted the irregularity;
- (b) the period of time that the reporter concerned spent on testing the e-Channels;
- (c) the period of time during which the fingerprint scanner did not function properly and the malfunctioning was unnoticed, and whether there was a serious defect in the design;
- (d) how technically the genuine and fake fingerprints were differentiated; and
- (e) why an alert was not prompted when the fake fingerprint was detected by the fingerprint scanners which were in normal operation.

15. AD(IS) said that according to the records, the reporter concerned had spent some two hours within one single day for immigration clearance at the land immigration control points which were within walking distance. After having reviewed relevant video-taped records of the immigration control points concerned thoroughly, it was noted that the reporter concerned had made use of a latex with his own fingerprint to test the fingerprint scanners at different e-Channels. Whenever it was unsuccessful, he quickly placed his own finger on the fingerprint scanner and was allowed to pass through the e-Channels. It therefore had not aroused suspicion of the officers at the scene. Regarding the devices of the e-Channels, regular inspection and maintenance were conducted. Under normal circumstances, the gatekeepers or the officers at the back office should be able to detect the abnormal functioning of e-Channels in a timely manner. The one with technical problem was a particular case and the fingerprint scanner was being examined by the manufacturer concerned comprehensively. Accordingly to the information provided by the manufacturer, a multi-spectral imaging technology had been used to assess the genuineness of the fingerprints. Passengers would not be allowed to pass through the gate of an e-Channel if the fingerprints could not be recognized by the fingerprint scanner. Instead of the wailing of a siren, a signal with a light flash would be activated when an extended period of time of using the e-Channel service at an e-Channel was detected.

16. Ms Emily LAU expressed concern about the security of e-Channels. Referring to the introduction of the e-Channel service since 2004 and the fact

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that close to 400 e-Channels had been installed since then at different immigration control points, Ms LAU asked whether there was any record of the malfunctioning of e-Channels which had caused other successful got-through cases. She also asked whether a mechanism was in place to test the function of e-Channels. Noting that ImmD had completed the third Information System Strategy review in 2010 in relation to the future development and a feasibility study on an immigration control system for the next generation was being conducted, including the introduction of a second biometrics such as facial recognition technology to enhance the immigration service, she enquired about the timeline of implementation and whether the security of e-Channels could be strengthened.

17. AD(IS) responded that it was the first time that a passenger had been able to pass through an e-Channel by making use of a fingerprint latex. Regular inspection and maintenance of each e-Channel were conducted. Regarding the application of biometrics to immigration control, the adoption of fingerprint identification in 2004 was because of its advanced development and a high level of technology among the different types of biometrics available in the global information technology market. Over the years, facial recognition had been well developed and its accuracy was comparable to that of fingerprint verification in accordance with a scientific research unit in the United States. In view of the global development of electronic document and self-service immigration clearance and the inclusion of a digital photo in the electronic travel document by various immigration authorities in other countries or regions, the adoption of a second biometrics for immigration clearance was being studied though a decision had not yet been made.

18. US for S added that it was necessary to install a camera in an e-Channel if facial recognition technology was to be adopted. It was understood that a photo of a visitor would be taken and the digital value so obtained after calculation by the system would match with the digital value of the digital photo in the travel document of the visitor. US for S further explained that the photo would need to be encrypted in the chip of the travel document to ensure its security. Given the two levels of security, the application of facial recognition technology would be able to strengthen the security of e-Channel.

19. Mr WONG Yuk-man expressed support in principle for introducing a second biometrics to enhance the security of e-Channel. Given the rapid development of the relevant technologies over the years, he considered that the Government should expedite the pace of adopting the most advanced technology which was already available in the market so as to enhance the system performance and immigration clearance efficiency. He held the view

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that ImmD and the system contractor should be responsible for the incident. He queried that ImmD and the system contractor had not conducted the regular inspection and maintenance of e-Channels properly and had not kept abreast of the updated technology. It was unacceptable that both parties were not aware of the sale of materials to fabricate live fingerprint on the internet, which could hack the e-Channel system. Before the enhancement of the e-Channel system, he questioned whether the e-Channel service for visitors from the Mainland could be temporarily suspended. Regarding the development of the third Information System, he said that proper terms should be included in the contract to ensure the reliability of the system and provision of after-sales maintenance service by the system contractor, which should be of high standard. He further asked about the contingent measures to be taken in the event of malfunctioning of e-Channels and the shortage of manpower at the immigration control points.

20. AD(IS) clarified that the review completed in September 2010 was on the strategy of the third Information System. In the meantime, a feasibility study comprising the technology review was being conducted for the immigration control system and it would be completed in the second quarter of 2012. He further said that the hacking of the e-Channel system had not been successful in view of the fact that the reporter concerned had made four unsuccessful attempts before he could pass through one of the e-Channels. Subsequent to the incident, all other e-Channels had been inspected and they were in normal operation.

21. Mr Andrew LEUNG expressed concern that the fingerprint latex provided by the reporter had not been used for the inspection of all e-Channels after the incident. Also, he queried whether there were cases of successful hacking of the e-Channel system but had not been reported to ImmD. Noting that members of the public were concerned about the security of the e-Channel system, he asked how the Administration could address the issue.

22. AD(IS) responded that since the development of the e-Channel system in 2002, ImmD was aware of the risk of fake fingerprints. Staff of ImmD had used different materials available since then in the market to fabricate their own fingerprints to conduct testing of the e-Channel system. After the incident, testing of e-Channels had been conducted by using the fake fingerprint provided by the reporter and also the fake fingerprints of staff of ImmD which were made of the same material purchased on the Internet. It was confirmed that the e-Channel concerned had technical problems.

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23. In response to the suggestion of Mr Andrew LEUNG to increase the frequency of the inspection of e-Channels, AD(IS) said that the e-Channels had undergone different types of tests before they were put into service. Regular inspection and maintenance of each e-Channel were done every six months. US for S added that ImmD would consider, on the basis of the report on the usage of e-Channels, conducting random checks of e-Channels as necessary in addition to the regular checks.

24. Mr CHAN Hak-kan remarked that the Administration should conduct a review on the security of the e-Channel system in view of the incident in January 2012. He expressed support for the introduction of a second biometrics for identification purpose when using the e-Channel service and the Hong Kong Smart Identity ("HKSID") Card. Referring to the issuance of the HKSID Card in 2003 and the forthcoming renewal around 2013 after a ten-year life span of the HKSID Card, Mr CHAN asked about the plan for the replacement exercise for HKSID Card which would facilitate the use of the e-Channel service.

25. AD(IS) said that the feasibility study on the second generation of HKSID Card and its implementation timetable were included in the third Information System Strategy for the immigration control system. Regarding the life span of the HKSID Card, he clarified that the undertaking of the contractor was that it would not be less than ten years when the HKSID was developed in 2003. Based on the data available, at present, there was no problem about the reliability and stability of the HKSID Card. The replacement exercise of HKSID Card at an appropriate time would be included in the third Information System Strategy as it would be of large-scale and manpower intensive.

26. Mr CHAN Hak-kan asked whether the process for immigration clearance would be prolonged with the application of both fingerprint verification and facial recognition technologies and people might revert to use the traditional immigration counters for immigration clearance.

27. US for S responded that the application of both fingerprint verification and facial recognition technologies was being studied to ensure their synchronization and additional security in the identification process. Quoting the Mainland as an example, he assured members that the processing time would not be lengthened to defeat the purpose of setting up e-Channels. Regarding the application of a second biometrics when using HKSID Card, US for S said that a photo template had already been encrypted and stored in the chips of the HKSID Card and it would facilitate the introduction of the facial recognition technology for using the e-Channel service.

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28. Referring to the e-Channel which did not function properly, the Chairman asked whether it failed in the process of fingerprint verification during all the tests conducted subsequently by using fake fingerprints of different materials, and therefore the worst scenario was that it had already allowed a substantial number of people to pass through for a certain period of time before its malfunctioning was detected.

29. AD(IS) responded that the duration of the malfunctioning of that particular e-Channel was not known. He further explained that the fingerprint verification and fake fingerprint identification were two different functions. While that particular e-Channel could still perform fingerprint verification properly, it failed to identify fake fingerprints made of the material provided by the reporter.

30. The Chairman further asked whether subsequent tests had been conducted by ImmD staff using fake fingerprints of other staff members and the same material provided by the reporter. AD(IS) replied in the negative and said that the fingerprint scanner of the e-Channel concerned had been taken down and passed on to the manufacturer for examination. The Chairman considered that the investigation should include the results of the tests on the e-Channel concerned using fake fingerprint made of other materials before that e-Channel was dismantled so as to confirm that it was malfunctioning. Also, the other e-Channels should be tested with the same kinds of materials if the malfunctioning of the e-Channel concerned was confirmed.

31. Mr Paul TSE asked about the accuracy of the immigration record of passengers in relation to the malfunctioned e-Channel and whether the fingerprint scanner could read the information of the HKSID Card. AD(IS) confirmed that there was complete and accurate immigration record of passengers.

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32. The Chairman requested the Administration to provide a report on the incident in January 2012 as mentioned in paragraph 6 of the Administration's paper.

**V. Amendments to the Schedules to the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134)**  
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1294/11-12(05) and (06))

33. US for S briefed members on the Administration's proposal to add to the Schedules to the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap.134)

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Gamma-butyrolactone ("GBL"), *Salvia divinorum* and salvinorin-A ("the three substances"), as detailed in the Administration's paper.

34. Referring to the different levels of regulatory control of *Salvia divinorum* in many jurisdictions as stated in paragraph 12 of the Administration's paper, the Chairman sought information on the considerations given by those jurisdictions in regulating the use of the three substances not under the category of dangerous drugs.

35. Commissioner for Narcotics ("C for N") responded that the regulatory control of the three substances was subject to the local legislation and special circumstances of individual jurisdictions. For example, since GBL could be used as chemical cleaning agents and food additives, some jurisdictions had regulated its use as a chemical but not a dangerous drug.

36. In response to the enquiry of the Chairman about the rationale for the proposed control of GBL as a dangerous drug rather than as a chemical, C for N said that a stringent standard was adopted in the formulation of the legislation, but exemption would be granted to allow for proper chemical use of GBL in some commodities.

37. The Chairman and Ms Audrey EU sought information on the list of commodities containing GBL which would be subject to regulatory control. Referring to paragraph 10 of the Administration's paper, C for N clarified that an exemption level at 0.1% was proposed to be set for the commodities containing GBL. As far as the exemption level was concerned and with reference to the relevant literature, no commodities exceeding such proposed level had been found in the market. Noting that regulatory control had been introduced in overseas countries, it was believed that there were not many commodities containing GBL in the local market. Members were assured that random checks would be conducted to keep in view the situation.

38. Dr PAN Pey-chyou asked about the abuse of *Salvia divinorum* in Hong Kong. C for N said that *Salvia divinorum* was not found and there was no sign of its abuse in Hong Kong. However, the Police had been able to purchase this substance from a public website in 2011. In view of the implementation of regulatory control of *Salvia divinorum* in overseas countries, it was deemed necessary to take a preventive measure and put it under regulatory control.

39. The Chairman concluded that members supported in principle the Administration's proposal to amend the Schedules to the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance.

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**VI. Latest development of rehabilitative services provided for persons in custody and Review on the "Risks and Needs Assessment and Management Protocol for Offenders"**

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1294/11-12(07) and (08))

40. US for S briefed members on the latest development in the provision of rehabilitative services by the Correctional Services Department ("CSD") and the outcome of the review on the Risks and Needs Assessment and Management Protocol for Offenders ("the Protocol") as detailed in the Administration's paper.

41. Ms Emily LAU expressed support for the provision of rehabilitative services by CSD. Ms LAU opined that the presence of a home, a job and a caring family were essential to prevent a rehabilitated person from re-offending. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung commented that having a home was essential for a rehabilitated person to seek employment. Ms LAU asked how the Administration could help rehabilitated persons with their housing problems after release.

42. Assistant Commissioner of Correctional Services (Rehabilitation) ("AC of CS") responded that CSD would help those persons in custody who were in need of housing assistance prior to their release, such as applying for public housing. Their applications for housing assistance would also be forwarded to non-governmental organizations ("NGOs"), including the Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong ("SCRAP"), where residential places were provided for follow up as appropriate. Housing subsidies were opened for application by SCRAP to those rehabilitated persons at a rate of \$1,265 per month, with reference to the amount of rent allowance under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme.

43. Ms Emily LAU enquired about the percentage of rehabilitated persons who had benefited from the Protocol. AC of CS advised that a review of the Protocol revealed preliminarily that re-offending was less common among those who had received matching rehabilitative programmes.

44. Having learnt from her visits to persons in custody that they wished to receive training on computer, Ms Emily LAU enquired about the availability of computers at CSD facilities and whether more training courses on computer would be provided.

45. AC of CS responded that a total of 756 sets of computer had been installed in all CSD facilities. Computer training was a core training course provided for young persons in custody, ranging from two to four hours per

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week. Adult persons in custody were also provided with an increased number of computer training courses. For instance, in 2011, in addition to computer training courses, there were 64 hobby classes with some computer training element provided to a total of around 1 000 adult persons in custody.

46. Ms Emily LAU expressed concern about the number of rehabilitated persons who could not secure employment or did not take part in the Protocol. AC of CS explained that every person in custody had his unique needs for rehabilitation. Hence, under the Protocol, each person in custody would be managed on a case basis, with a view to helping him meet his needs.

47. Referring to paragraph 9 of the Administration's paper, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung asked about the number of rehabilitated persons who had been recruited by the Government and their percentage in terms of civil servants that were recruited.

48. Principal Assistant Secretary for Security ("PAS for S") advised that according to the Civil Service Bureau, the Government did not require applicants to declare their criminal records in the application forms in conducting open recruitment exercises. Government departments did not maintain statistics specifically on whether the successful applicants had criminal records either. Also, the Government did not plan to call returns on such statistics as such an exercise would draw attention to whether current civil servants had any criminal records, which was considered inappropriate.

49. The Chairman asked whether the Civil Service Bureau would conduct a background vetting, including checking the applicants' criminal records, prior to offering jobs to the applicants. PAS for S responded that the Civil Service Bureau would request applicants to give a written consent for the Administration to check their criminal records. The Chairman requested the Security Bureau to convey request to relevant bureau/department that the Administration should record the number of rehabilitated persons newly recruited by the Administration on an annual basis, without recording individual names.

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50. Referring to paragraph 3 of the Administration's paper, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung asked about the percentage of those 122 young persons in custody who had participated in the Teen's Programme in terms of the total number of young persons in custody. He also enquired whether the Administration had followed up on the employment status of those 122 young persons in custody.

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51. AC of CS responded that most of the young persons in custody selected for the Teen's Programme were those detained in rehabilitation centres. The Teen's Programme consisted of 180 hours of vocational training and 120 hours of education, which aimed at providing a bridging path for its graduates to enrol in Vocational Training Council courses that required Secondary 3 level or equivalent, with a view to attaining recognized vocational qualifications. For those who could not attain Secondary 3 level or equivalent, they would receive other training, mostly in relation to kitchen service. Upon release, 95% of the young rehabilitated persons were able to secure employment within one month, while 5% of them chose to continue studying.

52. Ms Cyd HO expressed concern about the waiting time for admission to schools for social development ("SSD"), which could be as long as one year. Ms HO commented that such a long waiting time could jeopardize the rehabilitation of the young rehabilitated persons who might have a hard time in re-integrating into the society and might instead walk down their old paths of delinquency. In her view, the Administration should increase SSD places in this regard. The Chairman requested the Administration to provide, in relation to SSD, information on the number of increased places over the past few years, the percentage of rejected admission, and the waiting time for admission.

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53. US for S said that SSD received applications from a wide range of students. He undertook to convey members' views and request to the Education Bureau.

54. Ms Cyd HO noted from paragraphs 4 and 6 of the Administration's paper that the number of training places provided by CSD would be increased from 1 282 in 2011-2012 to 1 311 in 2012-2013 whereas as at end-January 2012, only 898 jobs were offered to rehabilitated persons. She asked whether the rest of the rehabilitated persons were offered any jobs. In her view, the Government should take the lead in recruiting rehabilitated persons.

55. AC of CS responded that CSD reviewed the demand for training places annually and the recent figure was around 1 300. He explained that those 898 jobs offered to rehabilitated persons were provided by a total of 249 organizations/companies/persons that had registered as Caring Employers of CSD only. Rehabilitated persons could also apply for other jobs provided by those employers who had not registered as Caring Employers.

56. The Chairman asked whether the Government and statutory bodies were among those 249 entities that registered as Caring Employers of CSD.

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AC of CS replied in the negative. The Chairman requested the Administration to provide a list of statutory bodies that had registered as Caring Employers of CSD. In his view, the Administration should proactively advocate statutory bodies to join the programme. The Chairman requested the Administration to consider sending invitation to all statutory bodies for the purpose, and revert to the Panel on the number of participating statutory bodies and the employment opportunities provided for rehabilitated persons by these statutory bodies.

57. The Deputy Chairman asked whether construction-related training courses would be provided to persons in custody, in preparation for them to enter the trade after release. AC of CS responded that the Construction Industry Council had formed a regular companionship with CSD and would provide CSD with advice on the provision of market-oriented vocational training courses annually.

58. The Deputy Chairman sought detailed information on the "Psychological Gymnasium" ("PSY GYM") treatment which was specifically designed for female adult persons in custody.

59. AC of CS advised that many studies had indicated that female adult persons in custody had specific treatment needs and hence PSY GYM was set up in March 2011 as a pilot scheme to provide them with specialized psychological treatment. CSD was reviewing its effectiveness and would extend it to other domains if necessary.

60. AC of CS and Senior Clinical Psychologist further advised that numerous international and local clinical experiences showed that female persons in custody were often found to have emotional and interpersonal relationship problems. PSY GYM was a personal growth and emotion treatment centre for women. Its service included the provision of in-depth psychological assessment for female persons in custody with moderate to high re-offending risk and with rehabilitative needs. They would be provided with gender-specific systematic treatment programmes including group therapy. It was expected that through communication with peers under a therapeutic atmosphere, they would be able to change. PSY GYM incorporated positive psychology with a view to helping them develop positive thinking, and through music and painting, their responses to treatment had been satisfactory in PSY GYM's first year of operation.

*(Members agreed to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.)*

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61. Dr PAN Pey-chyou and the Deputy Chairman asked whether PSY GYM would be provided for male adult persons in custody. AC of CS responded that persons in custody who required psychological treatment would be followed up on a case basis by CSD's clinical psychologists.

62. Dr PAN Pey-chyou asked whether former successful rehabilitated persons would be invited to experience-sharing sessions with persons in custody. AC of CS advised that CSD provided a wide range of rehabilitative services for persons in custody, including experience-sharing with former successful rehabilitated persons, education, and services provided by NGOs. Each person in custody would be managed on a case basis to meet his individual rehabilitation needs.

63. Noting from paragraph 19 of the Administration's paper that 325 young persons in custody had not received matching rehabilitative programmes under the Protocol in 2007, the Chairman asked about the reasons and whether CSD had kept any profiles of this group of young persons in custody.

64. AC of CS explained that participation in the Protocol was voluntary and those who had not participated might consider it unnecessary. Since 2007, the first year of the implementation of the Protocol, the number of persons in custody who refused to participate in the Protocol and hence the matching rehabilitative programmes had been dropping.

**VII. Any other business**

65. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:40 pm.