

**立法會**  
***Legislative Council***

LC Paper No. CB(2)184/13-14(06)

Ref : CB2/PL/SE

**Panel on Security**

**Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat  
for the meeting on 5 November 2013**

**Recent enhancement initiatives in penal institutions**

**Enhancement initiatives in penal institutions**

The subject of enhancement initiatives in penal institutions per se has not been discussed by the Panel on Security ("the Panel"). According to the Administration's replies to questions raised at Council meetings and special meetings of the Finance Committee to consider the Estimates of Expenditure 2013-2014 as well as press releases issued by the Administration, the enhancement initiatives of the Correctional Services Department ("CSD") in recent years regarding penal institutions are summarized in the following paragraphs.

**Low radiation X-ray body scanner**

2. To strengthen the security of penal institutions and prevent the smuggling of drugs by internal body concealment, the first X-ray body scanner was put on trial in Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre at the end of 2012. The scanner is mainly used for screening newly admitted male persons in custody to replace manual rectal searches. During the trial period, 1 451 persons in custody were searched and among these, three were discovered to have concealed contraband in their body. The new scanner has been put into full use in Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre since 28 January 2013. The manual rectal searches of persons in custody in Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre is conducted if the inmate concerned refuses to undergo X-ray scanning or the scanner fails to function.

3. CSD plans to procure one X-ray body scanner for Pik Uk Correctional Institution, Lo Wu Correctional Institution and Tai Lam Centre for Women respectively in the 2013-2014 financial year. The estimated cost of a body scanner is \$2.86 million.

#### Reduction of food waste

4. CSD has implemented the Waste No Food Programme since April 2013 on a voluntary basis at Lo Wu Correctional Institution to encourage female persons in custody to waste less food by reducing rice consumption. Since then, over 70% of the penal population in Lo Wu Correctional Institution has participated in the Waste No Food Scheme and according to CSD, 12 500 bowls of rice were saved each month. Upon enrolment, inmates are issued with a reduced portion of their staple food, including rice, chapatti and potatoes, to reduce leftovers in meals. According to the Administration, between April and July 2013, more than 40 000 bowls of rice, 100 kg of potatoes, and 200 pieces of chapatti have been saved at Lo Wu Correctional Institution, representing a monthly reduction of 470 kg in carbon-dioxide emission. The Lo Wu Correctional Institution has installed a food waste decomposing system, with a daily handling capacity of 100 kg, to recycle waste, which includes peels, leaves and fat, into useful compost. The organic compost is used for greening purposes.

5. As one of the signatories to the Food Wise Charter, CSD plans to install food waste processors at penal institutions to actively promote reduction of food waste and contribute to environmental protection.

#### Introduction of smoke-free penal institutions

6. As at the end of 2011, over 94% of male adult persons in custody indicated that they had a smoking habit. Although adult persons in custody are allowed to smoke in penal institutions and designated smoking booths have been provided, CSD has adopted anti-smoking measures to promote a non-smoking culture among persons in custody through education, publicity activities, counselling and smoking cessation courses. In a bid to encourage them to quit smoking, a smoke-free prison zone was put on trial by CSD in Tung Tau Correctional Institution in 2012. During the trial period, 738 persons in custody in the institution took part in the smoking cessation initiative. On 1 January 2013, Tung Tau Correctional Institution was officially designated as the first smoke-free penal institution, which only accommodated non-smoking male adult persons in custody.

7. CSD has started to implement similar programmes in other penal institutions. Smoke-free prison zones have been set up in Lo Wu Correctional Institution for females and also Stanley Prison for the admission of non-smoking persons in custody or those who are determined to quit smoking.

### **Latest development**

8. The Administration will brief the Panel on its recent enhancement initiatives in penal institutions at the meeting on 5 November 2013.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
31 October 2013