

**Sentence of Detention in a Detention Centre
or Training Centre of the Correctional Services Department**

The court may, after conviction of a young offender, and having considered the offence committed which might not require the imposition of a prison sentence, consider sentencing the young offender to either a Detention Centre or Training Centre of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) by remanding the young offender in the custody of the Commissioner of Correctional Services (C of CS) to enable the Commissioner to form an opinion as to whether or not the young offender is suitable for detention. In giving his assessment, C of CS would consider the nature of the offence committed, the offender's previous criminal history, institutional experience and physical and mental fitness for the programme and the availability of family and social support for the offender's re-integration into society.

Detention Centre

2. In general, young male offenders aged between 14 and 25 who are convicted of less serious offences, have short criminal history and with no previous CSD institutional experience, good family support and considered to be in need of the shocking impact of the Detention Centre Programme to deter them from further criminal activities would be recommended to undergo the Detention Centre programme. Offenders discharged from a Detention Centre will be subject to one year after-care supervision after release. The following two examples illustrate the profile of inmates sentenced by the court to a Detention Centre:

- A male offender, aged 17, convicted of “unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16”, found to be medically and mentally fit, was sentenced to the Detention Centre. He had one similar previous conviction and was given a police caution then. He had good family support and would benefit from the shocking impact of the Detention Centre programme to deter him from further infringement of the law.

- A male offender, aged 15, convicted of “breach of probation order” the second time with “arson” as the original offence, was sentenced to detention in a Detention Centre after being found physically and mentally fit for such training. He had infringed the law twice and was previously given chances of reformation which included probation supervision, hostel training and boys’ home training. With a supportive family network, the “Short, Sharp, Shock” regime of the Detention Centre programme is considered useful in dislodging his delinquent beliefs and helping him move back to the right track.

Cases found medically/mentally unfit for detention in a Detention Centre in the past three years are listed out at Annex.

Training Centre

3. The Training Centre programme is geared towards the provision of long-term character training for both male and female offenders between the age of 14 and 21. The target offenders are those with more sophisticated criminal background or those having committed more serious offences, and for offenders with little or no family support. The programme lasting for six months to three years aims to assist offenders to improve their educational standing and to equip them with vocational skills before their release. There will be three years after-care supervision to ensure that they could lead a law abiding life after release from a Training Centre. The following two examples illustrate the profile of inmates sentenced by the court to a Training Centre:

- A male of age 20 convicted for “possession of obscene article for the purpose of publication” was sentenced to the Training Centre programme. He had three previous convictions of “blackmail” and “claiming to be a member of a triad society”, “possession of Part I poison” and “making off without payment”. He had been fined and sentenced to a Detention Centre for his previous offences.

Because of his repeated infringement of the law, a long-term character training in the Training Centre would be of benefit to him.

- A male offender, aged 18, convicted of an offence of “assault occasioning actual bodily harm” was sentenced to the Training Centre programme. He had previously transgressed the law on six occasions for which he was given a police caution and placed on probation supervision with training in a Probation Home and later in a Reformatory School. As previous reformatory measures had failed to help him start anew and that he is in need of a long-term character training programme and a longer period of after-care supervision to effect a positive change in him, the offender would benefit from the Training Centre programme.

4. Both the Detention Centre and Training Centre programmes are not intended for drug dependents as they are considered more suitable to be placed in CSD’s Drug Addiction Treatment Centres.