



懲教署署長
Commissioner of Correctional Services

本署檔號 Our Ref.: (15) in CSD CR 1-125-5/19

29 May 2015

Mr Anthony CHU
Clerk
Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road, Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mr CHU,

**The Director of Audit's Report (Report No. 64)
Chapter 8: Rehabilitation services provided by
the Correctional Services Department**

Thank you for your letter of 22 May 2015. Please refer to the Appendix attached for our response to the Public Accounts Committee's enquiries regarding the captioned matter.

If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

YAU Chi-chiu

Commissioner of Correctional Services

A1.

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) believes that comprehensive support on rehabilitation, the determination of persons in custody (PICs) to start afresh as well as the support and acceptance of the community for rehabilitated persons can be effective in helping them re-integrate into society.

In 2006, CSD implemented the “Risks and Needs Assessment and Management Protocol for Offenders” (hereafter as “the Protocol”) which was established with the assistance of the Correctional Service of Canada and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, aiming at managing the re-offending risks of PICs and matching their rehabilitative needs in an effective manner, thereby reducing their chance of re-offending and helping them re-integrate into society. There are seven rehabilitative need domains. As far as the target of the Protocol is concerned which is consistent with overseas practices, CSD provides services to PICs based on the standard of at least one of the seven need-domains.

It is mentioned in the Audit Commission’s Report that between January 2013 and September 2014, 1,939 PICs had at least one need identified. Among them, 335 did not receive the Rehabilitation Matching Programmes group. The reasons are listed below:

<u>Reasons</u>	<u>Number of PICs</u>	<u>Percentage against eligible PICs (%)</u>
Refusal to join the group	174	8.97%
Prolonged stay in hospital due to chronic illnesses, or transferred to Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre for observation due to mental conditions	62	3.20%
Separate confinement due to discipline problem, or inability to intermingle with other group members owing to security reasons	23	1.19%
Others (e.g. early release/ lapse of detention order/ further sentenced to other CSD programmes, etc)	76	3.92%
	<u>335</u>	

Participating in the Rehabilitation Matching Programme group is voluntary. In general, refusal of individual PIC to join the group may not be attributed to a single factor. The reasons may include holding a negative attitude towards the advantages of the Rehabilitation Matching Programme group, deep-rooted criminal thinking, lack of resolution to turn over a new leaf, or lack of family support, etc.

CSD staff will encourage PICs to participate in the Rehabilitation Matching Programme group in the intake interview. Also, they will try to enhance the cognitive understanding of PICs about the Rehabilitation Matching Programme group and their motivation to participate through individual counselling sessions during custody. For those PICs who refuse to participate in the Rehabilitation Matching Programme group or in counselling to enhance their cognitive understanding, CSD staff will keep encouraging them to participate and arrange them with the “Motivation Enhancement Group”. If a PIC refuses to participate in the Rehabilitation Matching Programme group before release, counselling booklets related to the need domains such as Employment, Community Functioning, Associates, Family/Marital, etc. will be provided.

For PICs who are unable to participate in the Rehabilitation Matching Programme group because of chronic illnesses, discipline problem, etc. rather than refusal to participate, CSD staff will however provide individual counselling and referral service to them according to their rehabilitative needs. As this kind of counselling and referral do not have the element of group interaction, they are not included in the statistics for participation in the Rehabilitation Matching Programme group.

A 2.

As stated in paragraphs 3.3 to 3.5 in Part 3 under Chapter 8 of the Audit Commission's Report, CSD's major aim for providing vocational training courses for PICs is to enable them to acquire work skills and knowledge similar to those required by labour market of Hong Kong, thereby enhancing their employability, helping them secure a job after release and better preparing themselves for reintegration into society. Adult PICs with remaining sentences from 3 to 24 months who are allowed to be employed or work and are not subject to any condition of stay in Hong Kong after discharge can enroll for the above training courses on a voluntary basis. Those with remaining sentences fewer than 3 months are unlikely to enroll and attend the courses, and finish the examination. PICs with remaining sentences of more than 24 months can apply for the courses at a later stage.

In determining the number of training places to be offered for vocational training courses, CSD will take into consideration the number of eligible PICs and applicants in the previous financial year. The training places currently offered are able to cater for the need of all PICs enrolling for the courses voluntarily. We will review the situation, introduce market-oriented courses and adjust the number of training places offered for PICs from time to time. We will also adjust the number of training places according to feedback of PICs. In fact, by participating in industrial production work when they are serving their sentences, PICs learn about skills of a particular trade and general knowledge about the use of computer and occupational safety. They can also join the interest class during leisure time in order to acquire more skills.

A3.

Apart from providing a safe and secure custody for PICs, CSD is committed to offering them appropriate rehabilitation assistance to facilitate their smooth re-integration into society after serving their sentences. Therefore, we will take follow-up actions correspondingly on various correctional programmes including the Drug Addiction Treatment Centres (DATC) Programme according to actual needs with an aim of further enhancing our services.

According to the DATC Ordinance (Cap. 244), CSD has to provide 2 to 12 months' drug addiction treatment for inmates in DATC. After leaving the institution, they will be subject to 12 months' post-release supervision. During the supervision period, supervising officers will provide assistance to supervisees regarding their adaptation to society, family relationship and employment issues after release. They will also supervise and urge supervisees to comply with the requirements of supervision orders, help them re-integrate into society, and stay away from drugs and crimes. CSD may recall supervisees who have violated a supervision requirement to receive further training and treatment so as to prevent them from committing offences again.

In recent years, CSD has proactively implemented various new measures such as enhancing the Pre-release Re-integration Orientation Course, organising enhanced anti-drug groups and strengthening counselling services for recallees at DATC, so as to reinforce their determination to stay away from drugs. Moreover, the Department has stepped up the measures of field-check and inspection related to the drug test of supervisees.

A DATC case is considered successful if the supervisee does not violate against the requirements of "not relapsing to drug abuse" and "not having committed any offence against the laws of Hong Kong" during the one-year statutory supervision period after release. The success rate of DATC Programme is affected by a number of personal and social factors, which include the criminal conviction and drug abuse history of supervisees (such as the number of previous criminal convictions, the duration of drug abuse history and the nature of their offences, etc.), the motivation and determination of supervisees to stay away from drugs, the support of the community and their family members, as well as the prevalence of drug problem in the community, etc. Since the

success rate is subject to a number of personal and social factors, CSD cannot set any objective targets for the success rate of DATC. The success rates of DATC in recent years are as follows:

Year	2012	2013	2014
Success rates (%)	43.6	46.8	51.4

The above figures are shown in Appendix D of the Audit Report.