

香港懲教署



CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
HONG KONG

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22 December 2015

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

Dear Mr CHU,

Public Accounts Committee
Consideration of Chapter 2 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 65
Reduction and recycling of food waste

Thank you for your letter dated 15 December 2015.

2. The Correctional Services Department (CSD) attaches importance to environmental protection. We generally agree to the recommendations set out in paragraph 2.49 of the Audit Report (see Annex 1) and will take follow-up actions as appropriate.
3. On environmental protection, CSD took the initiative to formulate food waste management measures in 2012, and has progressively put them into operation with our existing manpower and financial resources since April 2013.
4. Over the past two years or so, CSD has implemented a series of food waste management measures, as follows:

- (a) In April 2013 (i.e. one month before the launch of the Food Wise Charter), CSD put in place the voluntary Waste No Food Scheme in Lo Wu Correctional Institution (LWCI) to enhance environmental awareness among persons in custody (PICs) and encourage them to reduce leftovers. Between November 2013 and May 2014, the Scheme was extended to three more correctional institutions with relatively more food waste, namely Nei Kwu Correctional Institution (for women), Tai Lam Centre for Women and the Elderly Unit of Tai Lam Correctional Institution (i.e. PICs transferred from the former Ma Hang Prison). In other words, a total of four institutions with relatively more food waste have implemented the Waste No Food Scheme so far.
- (b) In May 2013 (i.e. within the same month when the Food Wise Charter was launched), CSD assigned LWCI to sign the Food Wise Charter.
- (c) In 2013 and 2015, food waste decomposing machines were installed in LWCI and Stanley Prison respectively.

5. Furthermore, CSD signed the Food Wise Charter in October 2015. We will draw up concrete measures, having regard to the advice of the Environmental Protection Department, for more effective management of food waste.

6. As set out in paragraph 2.46 of the Audit Report, the per-PIC-per-day food-waste quantities of the 29 correctional institutions were at an average of 0.11 kg in the food-waste survey period. According to Appendix D on P. 93 of the Audit Report (see Annex 2), of the 29 institutions, the per-PIC-per-day food-waste quantities of 15 institutions (involving an average of 6 627 PICs provided with meals by CSD, or 78% of the respective population) were at an average of 0.11 kg or below. For the institutions with relatively high per-PIC-per-day food-waste quantities, CSD has analysed the situation and is taking follow-up actions as appropriate, including:

- (a) According to Appendix D of the Audit Report, two half-way houses, i.e. Pelican House and Phoenix House, had the highest per-PIC-per-day food-waste quantities of 1.61 kg and 1.03 kg respectively. In the food-waste survey period, there were a daily average of two and four PICs ordering meals respectively. The PICs involved were permitted to leave the CSD institutions for day activities and they might choose to consume their own food. Under such circumstances, although they had ordered their meals beforehand, they either did not take the meals provided by CSD or they had leftovers.

Apart from the above half-way houses, similar situations also occurred among PICs participating in Phase II of the programmes of Lai Hang Rehabilitation Centre and Wai Lan Rehabilitation Centre. In the food-waste survey period, there were a daily average of 11 and one PICs ordering meals respectively, and the per-PIC-per-day food-waste quantities were 0.36 kg and 0.33 kg respectively.

In view of this, CSD has stepped up publicity and urged PICs in half-way houses and Phase II of rehabilitation-centre programmes to cherish food by encouraging them to order meals only if they know they will take the meals inside the institutions to avoid food waste.

- (b) Tai Lam Centre for Women (TLCW), which accommodates female remands who have not yet been convicted, has a relatively high per-PIC-per-day quantity of food waste (1.00 kg). The relatively high amount of food waste may be attributed to the loss of appetite as a result of the emotion experienced by a number of female remands who are less acclimatised to the new environment. Moreover, the remands population may highly fluctuate from time to time. Hence, the participation rate of TLCW in the Waste No Food Scheme is relatively low. The implementation of the Scheme is a challenge. That said, CSD will continue to help those female remands adjust to the custodial environment as far as practicable. We will also step up publicity to encourage them to actively participate in the Scheme thereby reducing food waste.

7. Looking ahead, CSD will strengthen publicity and promotion of the Waste No Food Scheme in institutions where there is room for improvement. For example, we will assign our staff as Food Wise Ambassadors to disseminate to PICs the message on cherishing food and reducing food waste. CSD will also continue to educate and encourage PICs to cherish food and pursue a healthy and balanced eating habit by organising relevant activities for them, such as slogan and poster design competitions. Those winning entries will be displayed in the institutions. In addition, CSD will carry out inspections from time to time to monitor progress.

8. It is our belief that being provided with adequate nutritious food is a basic human right. Hence, CSD provides plain and wholesome food for PICs as prescribed by law and in accordance with humane principles, which fulfils the prevailing international dietary guidelines. The standard quantity and nutritional contents of food in the existing Dietary Scales are designed by qualified dietitians and supported by the Department of Health. CSD will not cut the portion of the meals of PICs for the purpose of reducing food waste. We will continue to safeguard the basic rights of PICs who should be supplied with adequate nutritious food. At the same time, we will continue to encourage PICs to participate in the Scheme on a voluntary basis and step up our efforts in food waste management.

9. CSD must emphasise that PICs should be treated in a prudent, reasonable and fair manner. Due care should be taken to strike a balance among various factors, including available resources of institutions, manpower, discipline, stability and anticipated number of participants. We will as far as practicable continue to explore appropriate approaches and means to further promote the Scheme in the institutions where there is room for improvement.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Fu Ha-man, Dora)

for Commissioner of Correctional Services

cc Secretary for the Environment (fax no.2537 7278)
Director of Environmental Protection (fax no.2891 2512)
Secretary for Education (fax no.2810 7235)
Chief Executive, Hospital Authority (fax no.2576 5050)
Director of Housing (fax no.2761 6700)
Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (fax no.2524 1977)
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (fax no.2147 5239)
Director of Audit (fax no.2583 9063)

Chapter 2 of Report No. 65 of the Director of Audit
Reduction and recycling of food waste

(Excerpt)

“2.49 Audit has recommended that the Commissioner of Correctional Services, in collaboration with the Director of Environmental Protection, should:

- (a) conduct a review of the CSD institutions having:
 - (i) relatively low per-PIC-per-day food-waste quantities with a view to identifying good practices; and
 - (ii) relatively high per-PIC-per-day food-waste quantities with a view to identifying areas for improvement;
- (b) conduct periodic surveys on food-waste quantities of individual CSD institutions; and
- (c) consider periodically publishing the per-PIC-per-day food-waste quantities of individual CSD institutions.”

Appendix D
(paras. 2.43, 2.45
and 2.46 refer)

**Per-person-in-custody-per-day food-waste quantities of
29 Correctional Services Department institutions
(August 2015)**

No.	CSD Institution	Average number of PICs provided with meals by the CSD	Per-PIC-per-day food waste (kg)
1	Pelican House (Note 1)	2	1.61
2	Phoenix House (Note 1)	4	1.03
3	Tai Lam Centre for Women (Note 2)	175	1.00
4	Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution	105	0.37
5	Lai Hang Rehabilitation Centre (Note 1)	11	0.36
6	Wai Lan Rehabilitation Centre (Note 1)	1	0.33
7	Lai Sun Correctional Institution	38	0.29
8	Nei Kwu Correctional Institution	136	0.27
9	Tung Tau Correctional Institution	297	0.27
10	Chi Lan Rehabilitation Centre	10	0.23
11	Lai King Correctional Institution	120	0.19
12	Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre	248	0.17
13	Pik Uk Correctional Institution	320	0.14
14	Pik Uk Prison	358	0.12
15	Lo Wu Correctional Institution	1,238	0.11
16	Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution	284	0.09
17-18	Sha Tsui Correctional Institution/ Lai Chi Rehabilitation Centre	71	0.09
19	Tai Lam Correctional Institution	437	0.09
20	Tong Fuk Correctional Institution	659	0.09
21	Cape Collinson Correctional Institution	105	0.07
22	Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre	1,399	0.06
23	Shek Pik Prison	411	0.04
24	Stanley Prison	1,215	0.03
25	Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre	459	0.02
26	Hei Ling Chau Correctional Institution	349	0.02
27	Bauhinia House (Note 1)	0	N/A
28	Queen Elizabeth Hospital Custodial Ward	0	N/A
29	Queen Mary Hospital Custodial Ward	0	N/A

Source: Audit analysis of CSD records

Note 1: PICs in half-way houses and Phase II of rehabilitation-centre programmes (i.e. CSD institutions No. 1, 2, 5, 6 and 27) were permitted to leave the CSD institutions for day activities and they may choose to consume their own food. Numbers of PICs taking meals outside CSD institutions were not included in this Appendix.

Note 2: According to the CSD, participation rate of this institution in the "Waste No Food Scheme" (see para. 2.43) was relatively low because many of the PICs in the institution were less acclimatised to the new environment.