

Audit Report No. 65

Chapter 6 – Efforts of the Narcotics Division and Beat Drugs Fund in combating drug abuse

Supplementary Information

This note sets out the supplementary information requested by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) relating to Chapter 6 of the Audit Report No. 65 on the efforts of the Narcotics Division (ND) and Beat Drugs Fund (BDF) in combating drug abuse.

Drug-related Statistics

2. The ND attaches great importance to ensuring the comprehensiveness and accuracy of drug-related statistics. In this connection, the Central Registry of Drug Abuses (CRDA) serves as an important system in providing relevant drug abuse statistics for monitoring changes in the trends and characteristics of the drug abuse situation in Hong Kong. It is a voluntary reporting system which encompasses reporting agencies involved in anti-drug work, including law enforcement departments, treatment and welfare agencies, hospitals and clinics. For measures to encourage reporting to the CRDA, the ND has been organizing briefings for the reporting agencies, elucidating on the usefulness of the information captured by the CRDA to formulating anti-drug initiatives and hence the importance of their reports, and addressing any questions or concerns of the agencies. To ensure timely reporting, the ND has issued reminders to the agencies with follow-up telephone calls where appropriate. The ND will continue to step up such measures and strengthen the liaison with the reporting agencies with a view to encouraging more reporting to the CRDA.

3. As set out in ^{Appendix 67}~~our reply of 5 January 2016 to the PAC~~, the ND will continue to monitor the trend and characteristics of the drug abuse situation through multiple measures. Apart from utilizing the CRDA, the ND will continue to make reference to the findings of other relevant surveys/studies. For instance, the triennial large-scale student surveys conducted by the ND will help keep track of the drug abuse situation among students of upper primary to post-secondary level in Hong Kong. Relevant researches supported by the BDF also help assess the drug

population in Hong Kong. The ND will also continue to look into the admission statistics of drug treatment and rehabilitation service agencies, as well as drug-related enforcement figures (e.g. on arrests, prosecutions, convictions and sentencing outcomes of drug offences). The findings reflected by these various sources of data and information, when viewed together and analysed, can provide more comprehensive and accurate drug-related statistics and the trends of the latest drug abuse situation in Hong Kong. The ND will maintain the efforts to explore other relevant statistics sources.

Healthy School Programme with a Drug Testing Component (HSP(DT)) and Marking Scheme for the Funding Exercise of the Regular Funding Scheme

4. As requested, we will update the PAC every six months on the progress and results of the independent evaluation research of the HSP(DT), and the progress in adopting a marking scheme with weightings and passing marks for each assessment criterion for the funding exercise of the Regular Funding Scheme.

**Narcotics Division
Security Bureau
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