

香港特別行政區政府
保安局



The Government of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Security Bureau

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7 June 2018

Ms Joanne MAK
Clerk to the Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms MAK,

The question raised by Dr Hon Helena WONG at the meeting of the Panel on Constitutional Affairs on 30 April regarding the quantity and variety of the library collections of correctional institutions has been referred to the Security Bureau for follow-up. In consultation with the Correctional Services Department (“CSD”), I am authorised to reply as follows:

CSD encourages persons in custody (“PICs”) to foster an interest in and use their leisure time for reading. Therefore, libraries have been set up in various correctional institutions to provide PICs with appropriate books.

Currently, the libraries of correctional institutions have a total collection of over 100 000 books in at least 30 different languages other than Chinese and English, such as Vietnamese, Indonesian, Thai, Korean, Spanish, Hindi, Urdu, Swahili, Wolof, etc. In addition, based on the needs of PICs of different nationalities, correctional institutions may borrow from each other books in the relevant languages as necessary.

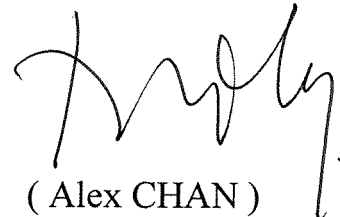
CSD allocates funds to correctional institutions to acquire new books every year. Correctional institutions will acquire appropriate books for

their libraries, having regard to such factors as the languages, interests and learning needs of PICs. In addition to their library collections, correctional institutions also borrow appropriate books from the Hong Kong Public Libraries and place them in their libraries. These books will be replaced in batches on a regular basis to increase the quantity and variety of books available for borrowing by PICs. Currently, correctional institutions have borrowed over 7 000 books from public libraries. Furthermore, CSD accepts books (including those in Chinese, English and other languages) donated by external organisations or individuals in accordance with the established mechanism.

As for the maximum number of books to be borrowed by PICs and the borrowing period, the heads of correctional institutions will allow flexibility in light of the resources available and the needs of PICs. Generally speaking, PICs may borrow a maximum of three books or magazines for one to two weeks each time.

The management of correctional institutions will review and fine-tune the book borrowing arrangement for PICs from time to time to cater for their needs.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alex Chan', written in a cursive style.

(Alex CHAN)

for Secretary for Security

c.c. Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (Attn: Ms Cathy LI)