

Child
Crime

4 children under 11 convicted

By CONNIE LAW

THIRTY-ONE children aged seven to 10 were charged with criminal offences last year, the Secretary for Security, Alistair Asprey, revealed in a follow-up to a recent question in the Legislative Council.

Four were convicted, he said.

Legislators have said the minimum age at which children can face criminal charges should be 10.

United Democrat chairman Martin Lee Chu-ming said Hong Kong was one of the handful of territories where children as young as seven might be found guilty of criminal offences.

Mr Asprey said that in 1992, 32 were charged and five were convicted. In 1991, 45 were convicted and nine were found guilty.

None had received a custodial sentence in a prison, training centre, detention centre or drug addiction treatment centre.