

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

FHB(FE)107

Question Serial No.

1010

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the number of unallocated niches under the management of the Department and their respective locations. What is the estimated time when these niches will fall short of demand? Is there any concrete plan for the expansion or construction of columbaria facilities, and what is the amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

As at 29.2.2008, a total of 1 658 niches in FEHD-managed columbaria remain unallocated. Their distribution by location is as follows –

Columbarium	No. of Unallocated Niches
Cape Collinson	30
Diamond Hill	11
Fu Shan	3
Kwai Chung	5
Wo Hop Shek	26
Cheung Chau	836
Lamma	445
Peng Chau	302

The niches in Cheung Chau, Lamma and Peng Chau Columbaria are restricted for use by indigenous villagers and genuine residents. We expect that they can cater for local demand in the near future. In other columbaria, the supply for niches would be outstripped by demand in the current year.

The construction of 3 200 niches in the Kwai Chung Columbarium and another 18 500 in the Diamond Hill Columbarium at a cost of \$14.8 million and \$113.6 million respectively is due for completion in 2008 – 09. We plan to build new columbarium facilities providing for some 30 000 niches and a Garden of Remembrance at the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery for completion by around 2012. The details and expenditure are being worked out.

Signature _____

Name in block letters W H CHEUK

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 20.3.2008