

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

FHB(FE)044

Head: 49 Food and Environmental
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0182

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the cremation and burial facilities, please provide information on the following:

- (a) for the various cremation and burial facilities, including public cemeteries, crematoria and columbaria, under the management of the Department, the annual handling capacity of each crematorium as well as the number of bodies (including cremated ashes) that can be deposited at each public cemetery and columbarium and the actual deposit figures; and
- (b) the total number of in-house staff engaged and expenditure involved in the management of the above facilities at present; whether subsidies have been provided for these services over the past three years (i.e. from 2008-09 to 2010-11); if yes, the amount of subsidy provided each year.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a)(i) The number of planned cremation sessions from 1.1.2011 to 31.12.2011 for each crematorium is:

Crematorium	No. of Cremation Sessions
Cape Collinson	15 346
Diamond Hill	10 176
Kwai Chung	6 996
Fu Shan	5 724
Cheung Chau	1 908
Wo Hop Shek (Note 1)	0
Total	40 150

Note 1: Closed since June 2009 for re-provisioning work. Staff are re-deployed to work in other crematoria to provide additional sessions.

- (a)(ii) The total number of burial spaces at each public cemetery and the actual occupancy figures as at 31.12.2010 were:

Cemetery	No. of Burial Space		Total
	Occupied	Unoccupied	
Wo Hop Shek	6 519	2 839	9 358
Sandy Ridge	3 055	1 955	5 010
Cheung Chau	631	629	1 260
Tai O	101	319	420
Lai Chi Yuen	146	130	276
Total	10 452	5 872	16 324

- (a)(iii) The total number of niches for cremated ashes at each public columbarium and the actual occupancy figures as at 31.12.2010 were:

Columbarium	No. of Niches		Total
	Occupied	Unoccupied	
Diamond Hill	61 648	163	61 811
Cape Collinson	61 558	57	61 615
Wo Hop Shek	22 272	18	22 290
Fu Shan	9 619	6	9 625
Kwai Chung	9 269	7	9 276
Cheung Chau	1 979	356	2 335
Lamma	54	436	490
Peng Chau	263	227	490
Total	166 662	1 270	167 932

- (b) The total number of in-house staff, including contract staff, engaged in the management of the above facilities is 187. The expenditure involved in the management of the above facilities and the revenue collected for the same in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 were:

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
	HK\$ million (Actual)	HK\$ million (Actual)	HK\$ million (Estimate)
Revenue collected	63.1	125.5 (Note 2)	66.9
Expenditure	162.3	173.2	177
Deficit	99.2	47.7	110.1

Note 2 : The significant increase of revenue collected was due to the sale of new niches at Diamond Hill Columbarium.

Signature _____

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011