

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

FHB(FE)142

Question Serial No.

1981

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:

Regarding the supply of public niches, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of deaths (Hong Kong residents) and the means of disposal of the dead (by burial or cremation) in 2010, 2011 and 2012; and
- (b) the number of applications for public niches in Hong Kong, the number of niches allocated, the total number of applicants on the waiting list for public niches and the average waiting time for a public niche in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

(a)

Year	No. of Deaths	No. of Burials	No. of Cremations
2010	42 705	4 102	38 006
2011	42 188	4 210	37 916
2012	43 672	3 643	39 494

(b)

Year	Re-allocated niches			
	No. of applications	No. of niches allocated	No. of applications on the waiting list	Average waiting time (months)
2010	1 404	639	11 945	30.5
2011	5 341	416	17 286	39
2012	4 852	255	22 138	43.5

Year	New niches ⁽¹⁾	
	No. of applications	No. of niches allocated
2010	0	0
2011	0	0
2012	24 267	1 612 ⁽²⁾

- (1) New niches are allocated through computer balloting, rather than by reference to a waiting list.
- (2) New niches at Diamond Hill columbarium (560 niches) and Wo Hop Shek Kiu Tau Road columbarium (10 182 niches) were made available for public allocation in 2012. The exercise commenced on 29 November 2012 and will complete in May 2013.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013