

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

**FHB(FE)213**

Question Serial No.

5324

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 service provided by the Department for temporary storage of cremains, please advise on the number of cases with storage period longer than two months, the longest storage period and the total amount of fees collected in the past five years (i.e. from 2008-09 to 2012-13). Please also advise whether there will be an increase in the expenditure on provision of the service in the future; if yes, please give the amount of increase, the number of planned additional premises and their storage capacity.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) provides service for temporary storage of cremains in all its crematoria free of charge in the first two months following cremation. The duration may be extended upon application at a monthly fee of \$250 and the cremains are stored in the Kwai Chung Crematorium. Paying respect to the deceased at the temporary storage facilities is not allowed. The Department does not keep separate breakdown of the expenditure involved in operating these facilities.

In the past 5 years, there were 140 cases in which the duration of temporary storage exceeded 2 months. Among these cases, the longest storage time was 15 months. The total revenue collected in connection with the temporary storage service in the past 5 years was \$39,930.

At present, there is no waiting list for the service. The Department will closely monitor the situation and consider the need for more temporary storage facilities as necessary.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013