

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)125****(Question Serial No. 0892)**

**Head:** (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

**Subhead (No. & title):** (-) Not Specified

**Programme:** (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

**Controlling Officer:** Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

**Director of Bureau:** Secretary for Food and Health

**This question originates from:** Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

**Question (Member Question No. 30):**

Please provide information on the following in respect of public niches:

- (a) the number of deaths (Hong Kong residents) and the means of disposal of the dead (by burial or cremation) from 2011-12 to 2013-14; 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 from 2011-12 to 2013-14.

**Asked by:** Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

**Reply:**

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) Means of disposal of the dead :

Year	No. of Deaths	No. of Burials	No. of Cremations
2011	42 188	4 210	37 916
2012	43 672	3 643	39 494
2013	43 399	3 573	38 914

- (b) Allocation of new niches :

Year	New niches <sup>(1)</sup>	
	No. of applications	No. of niches allocated
2011	0	0
2012	24 267	1 612 <sup>(2)</sup>
2013	13 172	12 913 <sup>(3)</sup>

(1) New niches are allocated through computer balloting. There is no waiting list.

(2) Phase I allocation of new niches at Diamond Hill columbarium (560 niches) and Wo Hop Shek Kiu Tau Road columbarium (10 182 niches) commenced in November 2012 and was completed in May 2013.

(3) Phase II allocation of new niches at Diamond Hill columbarium (444 niches) and Wo Hop Shek Kiu Tau Road columbarium (15 118 niches) commenced in September 2013 and will complete in May 2014.

Re-allocation of niches :

<b>Year</b>	<b>Re-allocated niches</b>			
	<b>No. of applications</b>	<b>No. of niches re-allocated</b>	<b>No. of applications on the waiting list</b>	<b>Average waiting time (months)</b>
2011	5 341	416	17 286	39
2012	4 852	255	22 138	43.5
2013	5 037	230	21 360	45