

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)146****(Question Serial No. 0233)**

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. 27):

With regard to the work of “managing cremation and burial facilities, including public cemeteries, crematoria and columbaria”, please advise on the following:

- (a) the number of allocated and unallocated burial spaces at each public cemetery; and
- (b) the total number of niches, the number of allocated niches, the number of niches available for re-allocation, the number of unallocated niches, and the number of applicants for allocation of niches by ballot at each public columbarium at present.

Asked by: Hon. Wong Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) The number of allocated and unallocated burial spaces at each public cemetery as at 31 December 2013 was as follows -

Name of Cemetery	No. of coffin burial spaces			No. of urn burial spaces		
	Allocated	Unallocated	Total	Allocated	Unallocated	Total
Wo Hop Shek	5 772	3 697	9 469	82 598	30 274	112 872
Sandy Ridge	2 880	2 130	5 010	31 877	5 954	37 831
Cheung Chau	616	644	1 260	12 150	1 312	13 462
Tai O	109	311	420	99	175	274
Lai Chi Yuen	146	130	276	216	116	332
Diamond Hill Urn Cemetery	-	-	-	52 707	-	52 707
Total:	9 523	6 912	16 435	179 647	37 831	217 478

- (b) As at 31 December 2013, the total number of niches, the number of allocated niches, the number of niches available for re-allocation, the number of unallocated new niches, and the number of applications received for allocation of new niches by ballot were given below:

Name of Columbarium	Total no. of niches	No. of allocated niches	No. of niches available for re-allocation	No. of unallocated new niches	No. of applications received for allocation of new niches by ballot
Cape Collinson	61 615	61 603	12	0	N.A.
Diamond Hill	63 351	62 811	15	525	28 038 ^{Note 1}
Wo Hop Shek	66 000	35 817	2	30 181	
Fu Shan	9 625	9 619	6	0	N.A.
Kwai Chung	9 276	9 266	10	0	N.A.
Cheung Chau	3 335	2 335	0	1 000	Not yet available. Note 2
Lamma	490	70	4	416	N.A.
Peng Chau	490	339	2	149	N.A.
Total:	214 182	181 860	51	32 271	

Note 1: Phase I of the exercise for allocation of new niches at Wo Hop Shek Kiu Tau Road Columbarium and Diamond Hill Columbarium commenced on 29.11.2012, and was completed on 8.5.2013. Applications for Phase II allocation were accepted from 18.6.2013 to 18.7.2013. A total of 13 172 applications for balloting were received. Together with the 14 866 unsuccessful applications carried over from Phase I, the total number of applications for balloting was 28 038. Phase II allocation will be completed in May 2014.

Note 2: The process of accepting applications for allocation of new niches at Cheung Chau Columbarium commenced on 18.2.2014 and ended on 10.3.2014.