

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)158**

**(Question Serial No. 1530)**

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 252 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 10):

With regard to the work of “managing cremation and burial facilities, including public cemeteries, crematoria and columbaria”, please advise on the restriction by the Department on the number of sets of cremated ashes placed in a niche at present, and whether the restriction has been relaxed to allow for placement of more than one set of cremated ashes in a niche. Please also advise on the maximum number of sets of cremated ashes allowed to be placed under the relaxed arrangement, and the number of applications approved by the Department so far.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

There are two types of niches in public columbaria managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), namely the standard and the large niche, which can accommodate two and four sets of cremated ashes respectively. To enhance utilisation, the Department has removed such restriction since January 2014, and an applicant may now deposit as many additional sets of cremated ashes that a standard or a large niche can hold, subject to application and approval of the Department. The Department has received and approved two such applications up to February 2014.