

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)228****(Question Serial No. 3717)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

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. 218):

Regarding the services provided by the Department for the scattering of cremated ashes in Gardens of Remembrance and at sea, please provide information on the following:

- the respective numbers of cases of using the services provided by the Department for the scattering of cremated ashes in Gardens of Remembrance and at sea in each of the past five years;
- the current number of service quota available for scattering cremated ashes in Gardens of Remembrance at the cemeteries managed by the Department, with a breakdown by cemetery; whether the Department will allocate additional resources to increase the service quota in the next three years; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s); and
- the number of cases of using the services provided by the Department for the scattering of cremated ashes at sea in each of the past five years; whether the Department will allocate additional resources to increase the service quota in 2014-15; if yes, the details and the number of additional quota; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

- (a) The information sought is given below:

Year	Number of cases	Scattering of ashes	
		at Gardens of Remembrance (GoR)	at sea
2009	650		0 (service commenced on 23.1.2010)
2010	1 171		658
2011	1 648		549
2012	2 023		671
2013	2 354		709

- (b) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) manages 11 GoR in eight columbaria and has not imposed any service quota for scattering of ashes in GoR.
- (c) The number of cases using the ferry services provided by the Department for the scattering of cremated ashes at sea is given below:

Year	No. of cases using free ferry services for scattering of cremated ashes at sea
2009	0 (service commenced on 23.1.2010)
2010	658
2011	549
2012	671
2013	709

The revised estimate of expenditure incurred by the Department for providing free ferry services for the scattering of cremated ashes at sea in 2013-14 was \$1.391 million. The estimated expenditure in 2014-15 is \$1.997 million. The Department is providing 4 ferry trips each month, each of which could accommodate up to 25 applications (bereaved families) at present. The Department will monitor usage and arrange additional trips if necessary.