

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)237

(Question Serial No. 4811)

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. 273):

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. Please also advise whether there will be an increase in the expenditure for providing the service in the future; if yes, please state the amount of increase, the number of planned additional storage facilities 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. Expenditure involved will be absorbed within our existing resources. In the past 5 years, there were 197 cases in which the duration of temporary storage exceeded 2 months. Among these cases, the longest storage time was 19 months. The total revenue collected in the past 5 years was \$78,410.

The Department will closely monitor the situation and consider increasing the number of temporary storage facilities as necessary.