

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)238****(Question Serial No. 4813)**

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. 275):

Please advise on the number of new public columbarium facilities built, the location and number of new niches provided, as well as the expenditure incurred in the past five years. Please also advise on the estimated expenditure for constructing public columbaria, as well as the number and location of new niches to be provided in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

Details about the public columbarium facilities completed from 2009-10 to 2013-14 are as follows –

Location	Number of Niches	Actual/Estimated Expenditure (\$ million)	Year of Completion
Diamond Hill Columbarium	1 540	0.51	2012-13
Wo Hop Shek Kiu Tau Road Columbarium Phase V	43 710	629.50	2012-13
Cheung Chau Cemetery	1 000	3.30	2013-14

The Administration has identified 24 potential sites in the 18 districts for columbarium development to increase the supply of public niches. Construction of new niches in two of the sites, namely the Diamond Hill Columbarium and Cheung Chau Cemetery, as tabulated above, was already completed. As regards the other sites, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has consulted the relevant District Councils in 2012 on the construction of 44 000 niches at Wo Hop Shek, 110 000 niches at Tsang Tsui, 20 000 niches at Tsing Tsuen Road and 200 000 niches at Sandy Ridge Cemetery. Should we be able to secure support of the Legislative Council and the relevant District Councils, construction works in Tsang Tsui are scheduled to start in 2015 for completion in 2018, while that for Tsing Tsuen Road and Wo Hop Shek are scheduled to start in 2016 for completion in 2018 and 2019 respectively. The estimated cost for developing columbarium facilities at these three sites is not yet available. We are currently conducting site investigation and detailed design for site formation and associated infrastructural works for the development of columbarium, crematorium and related facilities at Sandy Ridge Cemetery. The total estimated cost for conducting the said

site investigation and detailed design work is \$66.4 million. The columbarium development at Sandy Ridge Cemetery is expected to start in 2019 (after site formation) and will provide 200 000 new niches by phases starting from 2022. The Administration is conducting feasibility studies on the remaining sites. The Administration will consult the relevant District Councils before the sites are confirmed for columbarium development.