

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)092

(Question Serial No. 2088)

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

Question:

At present, the Department provides temporary storage service for 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 the increase, the number of planned additional storage facilities and their storage capacity.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 149)

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 of \$80. In the past five years, there were altogether 222 cases in which the duration of temporary storage exceeded two months. Among these cases, the longest storage time was 27 months. The total revenue collected in the past five years was \$112,410.

The Department is going to convert the obsolete old Kwai Chung Crematorium building into a temporary storage facility for cremains with a storage capacity of about 23 000 sets of ashes, at an estimated cost of about \$15.5 million. The conversion works are expected to commence later this year for completion in 2016.

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