

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)093****(Question Serial No. 2089)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the number of new public columbarium facilities built, the locations 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 locations of new niches to be provided, in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 150)Reply:

Details about the public columbarium facilities completed from 2010-11 to 2014-15 are as follows –

<b>Location</b>	<b>Number of Niches</b>	<b>Year of Completion</b>	<b>Actual/Estimated Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
Diamond Hill Columbarium	1 540	2012-13	0.51
Wo Hop Shek Kiu Tau Road Columbarium Phase V	43 710	2012-13	629.50
Cheung Chau Cemetery	1 000	2013-14	2.70

As regards new projects in the pipeline, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has already consulted and obtained the in-principle support of the relevant District Councils on the construction of 20 000 niches at Tsing Tsuen Road, 200 000 niches at Sandy Ridge Cemetery, 25 000 niches at Chai Wan and 44 000 niches (Phase I) at Wo Hop Shek. The next step is to proceed with the conceptual/detailed design, as applicable, of the relevant projects, e.g. for site formation and associated infrastructural works for the Sandy Ridge Cemetery project and for the columbaria at Chai Wan and Wo Hop Shek

project (Phase I). In addition, the Department has obtained the green light from the Tuen Mun District Council for us to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council (FC) for the construction of 160 000 niches at Tsang Tsui and we are now finalising the costing figures of the project with reference to the detailed design approved by the District Council. Subject to the approval of the FC, construction works for the Tsang Tsui columbarium are scheduled for completion in 2018. As regards the other sites identified for columbarium development, the Department has largely completed the necessary Engineering Feasibility Studies and Traffic Impact Assessments and will consult the relevant District Councils before the proposed columbarium development is taken forward.

The estimated cost for developing the new columbarium facilities can only be ascertained upon finalisation of design details. For the Tsang Tsui project for which the detailed design has been approved by the relevant District Council, we are now finalising the costing figures of the project with reference to the approved design. The estimated expenditure for developing new columbarium facilities is hence not available at this stage.

- End -