

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)236

(Question Serial No. 4505)

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:

The Government has indicated that there will be a substantial increase in cremation fees. It is noted that the adjustment rate of cremation fees is mainly set by the Cemeteries and Crematoria Special Duties Team as well as the Finance and Supplies Division under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. Please advise this Committee on the operational expenses, staff establishment and estimated full-year expenditure on salaries of the above Team and Division for 2015-16.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wai-yip, Albert (Member Question No. 103)

Reply:

Provision of cremation service is under the purview of the Cemeteries and Crematoria Section (C&C Section) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department). The estimated operational expenses (excluding expenditure on salary), staff establishment and expenditure on salary of the C&C Section for 2015-16 are \$280.4 million, 213 staff (including 34 Non-Civil Service Contract staff) and \$52.1 million respectively.

The Finance and Supplies Division (F&SD) is responsible for finance matters and supplies operations of not just the C&C section but the Department as a whole. Its main duties include, among others, financial analysis in the process of the comprehensive fee review. The estimated operational expenses (excluding expenditure on salary), staff establishment and expenditure on salary of F&SD for 2015-16 are \$19.1 million, 105 staff and \$36.2 million respectively.

The duties of C&C Section and F&SD include various tasks. There is no breakdown for the expenditure incurred in the fee adjustment exercise.