

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)271

(Question Serial No. 5516)

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:

Please advise on the average waiting time for existing niches which were vacated and re-allocated in public columbaria in the past three years, as well as the daily number of cases concerning niche selection and cremation service that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department currently handles.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 283)

Reply:

For re-allocated niches (i.e. niches returned to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department)), a waiting list is kept for each columbarium and the average waiting time for the past three calendar years is as follows –

Year	Average Waiting Time (Month)
2013	45
2014	54
2015	45

Currently, the Department invites 160 applicants each day to select the remaining new niches at the Wo Hop Shek Kiu Tau Road Columbarium (Phase V).

For cremation service, it is the Department's pledge that an applicant can be offered a cremation session at one of the government crematoria within the next 15 days from the date an application is made. In 2015, the Department handled a total of 42 737 body cremations, i.e. an average of about 118 cremations a day.