

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)303

(Question Serial No. 6593)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

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:

With regard to the crematorium services of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, please advise this Committee on the following:

- a) the number of cremations and service utilisation rates of the crematoria in the past three years, with a breakdown by crematorium;
- b) the average waiting time for cremation service, with a breakdown by crematorium; and
- c) whether additional resources will be allocated in 2016-17 to increase the service capacity of the crematoria with higher utilisation rates; if yes, details of the increase in service capacity for these crematoria and the estimated expenditure in this respect.

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 470)

Reply:

- a) Information on the number of cremation sessions released, cremation sessions booked and the percentage of cremation sessions booked in public crematoria managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in the past three calendar years (2013 to 2015) is given below –

Name of Crematorium	2013			2014			2015		
	No. of cremation sessions released	No. of cremation sessions booked	Percentage of cremation sessions booked	No. of cremation sessions released	No. of cremation sessions booked	Percentage of cremation sessions booked	No. of cremation sessions released	No. of cremation sessions booked	Percentage of cremation sessions booked
Cape Collinson	7 992	7 844	98.1%	7 798	7 789	99.9%	8 288	8 283	99.9%
Diamond Hill	8 499	8 439	99.3%	8 480	8 466	99.8%	7 896	7 887	99.9%
Fu Shan	6 948	6 800	97.9%	6 897	6 885	99.8%	6 960	6 949	99.8%
Kwai Chung	8 265	8 250	99.8%	7 331	7 325	99.9%	8 448	8 443	99.9%

Cheung Chau	1 728	164	9.5%	1 321	168	12.7%	1 308	195	14.9%
Wo Hop Shek	7 539	7 417	98.4%	10 635	10 611	99.8%	10 998	10 980	99.8%
Total:	40 971	38 914	95.0%	42 462	41 244	97.1%	43 898	42 737	97.4%

- b) It is the pledge of the Department 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. This performance pledge has been met over the three years ending 2015. We do not have information on the average waiting time for booking cremation service.
- c) Reprovisioning of the Cape Collinson Crematorium was completed in December 2015, providing ten new cremators and ancillary facilities. The overall cremation capacity of government crematoria as a result increases from 44 600 to 52 800 sessions per annum, which is expected to meet the projected demand up to 2025.

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