

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)116

(Question Serial No. 0227)

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:

With regard to the green burial services, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of cases of using the service of scattering cremains in the Gardens of Remembrance and the utilisation rate in the past three years (i.e. 2014 to 2016), with a breakdown by the cemeteries managed by the Department;
- (b) the number of cases of using the service of scattering cremains at sea provided by the Department and the utilisation rate in the past three years (i.e. 2014 to 2016); and
- (c) the manpower and expenditure involved in implementing the Department's work plan for promoting the green burial services in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (Member Question No. 11)

Reply:

- (a) The number of applications for scattering of cremated ashes in the Gardens of Remembrance managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in the past 3 calendar years is as follows -

Name of Garden of Remembrance	No. of Applications		
	2014	2015	2016
Cape Collinson	440	511	623
Diamond Hill	1 508	1 880	2 252
Kwai Chung	340	326	464
Fu Shan	128	127	172
Wo Hop Shek Phase V	195	285	453
Wo Hop Shek Phase III	83	66	38

Cheung Chau	2	1	1
Peng Chau	1	0	1
Lamma	0	0	0
Total	2 697	3 196	4 004

As there is no fixed maximum capacity for scattering of cremated ashes at the Gardens of Remembrance managed by the Department, no utilisation rates can be provided in the above table.

- (b) Information on the number of applications received and the utilisation rate of the free ferry service provided by the Department for scattering of cremated ashes at sea in the past 3 calendar years is given below -

Year	Number of applications received	Utilisation rate
2014	790	88%
2015	817	86%
2016	850	72%

Note: The utilisation rate is calculated by the number of applications received in that year divided by the total service capacity provided in the same year. As the total service capacity has been increased in the past few years to offer greater flexibility to the public, hence despite the increase in number of applications received, the utilisation rate has decreased.

- (c) In 2017-18, the work of promoting green burial will continue to be absorbed by the Department's existing staff in various sections including the Cemeteries and Crematoria Section, the Public Information and Education Division and Senior Administrative Officer (Administration and Development)'s office. In addition, 1 Health Inspector post will be created in this year to enhance support for implementation of the Department's work plan on green burial. The estimated amount of provision earmarked for promoting green burial in 2017-18 is about \$8 million.

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