

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)147

(Question Serial No. 0679)

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 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is responsible for implementing the licensing scheme for private columbaria upon commencement of the Private Columbaria Bill. In this connection, please advise on the manpower and financial provision earmarked for such work in 2017-18, as well as the timetable for implementing the licensing scheme.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. 31)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will set up a dedicated office known as the Private Columbaria Affairs Office (PCAO) to deal with the preparatory work for taking forward the Private Columbaria Ordinance and for implementing the licensing scheme for private columbaria upon commencement of the legislation. The Private Columbaria Bill is being scrutinised by the Legislative Council, and we are working closely with the Council to facilitate its early passage. If everything goes smoothly, the Ordinance could be enacted by as early as mid-2017. The new PCAO comprises the Licensing Board Secretariat, the Administration Unit, the Licensing Team and the Enforcement Team. About 50 staff and \$50 million have been earmarked for the operation of the PCAO in 2017-18.

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