

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)272

(Question Serial No. 6736)

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 cremation services of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) the annual service quota of the crematoria under the management of the Department, as well as the actual usage rates of the services and the related facilities, in the past 3 years;
- (b) the current average time for handling a dead body or a set of human remains by the crematoria under the management of the Department; whether additional resources will be allocated in 2017-18 to shorten the time required for handling a dead body or a set of human remains by the crematoria and to increase the service quota of crematoria (if yes, the details of the work plan and estimated expenditure in this respect; if not, the reason(s)); and
- (c) whether the Department has any concrete plans for building new cremation facilities or extending the existing ones in 2017-18; if yes, details of the plans concerned and the estimated expenditure in this respect; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 239)

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 3 calendar years is given below -

Name of Crematorium	2014			2015			2016		
	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	7 798	7 789	99.9%	8 288	8 283	99.9%	15 111	12 945	85.7%
Diamond Hill	8 480	8 466	99.8%	7 896	7 887	99.9%	8 578	8 519	99.3%
Fu Shan	6 897	6 885	99.8%	6 960	6 949	99.8%	5 895	5 814	98.6%
Kwai Chung	7 331	7 325	99.9%	8 448	8 443	99.9%	6 560	6 494	99.0%
Cheung Chau	1 321	168	12.7%	1 308	195	14.9%	1 105	119	10.8%
Wo Hop Shek	10 635	10 611	99.8%	10 998	10 980	99.8%	10 629	9 665	90.9%
Total	42 462	41 244	97.1%	43 898	42 737	97.4%	47 878	43 556	91.0%

- (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 3 years ending 2016. We will keep in view the demand and supply situation in planning cremation services in the years ahead.
- (c) Reprovisioning of the Cape Collinson Crematorium to provide 10 new cremators and ancillary facilities was completed in December 2015. The overall cremation capacity of all public crematoria has increased from 44 600 to 52 800 sessions per annum, which is expected to meet the projected demand up to 2022. In light of the demand and supply situation, no additional public crematoria or cremators will be provided in 2017-18.

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