

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)192****(Question Serial No. 2421)**

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:

Upon enactment of the Private Columbaria Ordinance (Cap. 630) to regulate private columbaria, there is a "vacuum period" during which operators of private columbaria are not allowed to inter "new ashes", as a result, the demand for temporary storage facilities for cremains provided by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department may increase. In this connection, please advise on the location of the temporary storage facilities provided by the Department, their capacity and utilisation rate, as well as the number of applications received and the number of applications on the waiting list for these facilities (with a breakdown by location).

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 42)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

	Kwai Chung Crematorium (Only for storage of cremains bags)	Wo Hop Shek Columbarium Phase III* (Only for storage of cinerary urns)
Capacity for temporary storage of cremains	10 080 spaces	5 040 spaces
No. of space occupied as at 31.12.2017	265	219
Usage rate	2.6%	4.3%

* Temporary storage service for cremains at Wo Hop Shek Columbarium Phase III has been commissioned since 30 June 2017.

Note: The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) at present has a total of some 28 000 temporary storage spaces at the Kwai Chung Crematorium, Wo Hop Shek Columbarium Phases III and V, and the vacant staff quarters at Cape Collision Crematorium and Hong Kong Cemetery. Amongst the aforesaid temporary storage facilities, Kwai Chung Crematorium and Wo Hop Shek Columbarium Phase III have been open for use. In addition, some 40 000 temporary storage spaces would be made available in the coming two years. The Department will keep the usage of temporary storage facilities under review.

All applications for temporary ash storage services have been entertained. No applications have to be put on any waiting list.

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