

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)217****(Question Serial No. 2329)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (4) Public Education and Community InvolvementControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the promotion of green burial,

- please advise on the expenditure involved in the promotion work in the past 5 years (i.e. from 2013 to 2017), with a breakdown by year and promotion project;
- please set out in the table below the number of cases handled by the Department and the expenditure involved in the past 5 years (i.e. from 2013 to 2017); and

Year		Burial	Cremation	Interment of cremated ashes in public niches	Scattering of cremated ashes in the designated areas in Hong Kong waters	Scattering of cremated ashes in Gardens of Remembrance
2013	Number of cases					
	Expenditure involved					
2014	Number of cases					
	Expenditure involved					
2015	Number of cases					
	Expenditure involved					
2016	Number of cases					
	Expenditure involved					
2017	Number of cases					
	Expenditure involved					

- please advise on the number of users and the utilisation rate of the ferry service provided by the Department for scattering cremated ashes at sea, as well as the expenditure involved in the past 5 years (i.e. from 2013 to 2017), with a breakdown by year.

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 35)

Reply:

- The expenditure incurred by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in promoting green burial in the past 5 years is given below -

<b>Promotion work</b>	<b>2013-14 (\$ million)</b>	<b>2014-15 (\$ million)</b>	<b>2015-16 (\$ million)</b>	<b>2016-17 (\$ million)</b>	<b>2017-18 (\$ million)</b>
Mass publicity and advertisement	--	--	4.82	8.75	8.38
Public education activities including exhibitions, promotion booths, etc.	0.14	0.13	0.44	0.72	0.38
Production of publicity and public education materials	0.14	0.15	0.67	1.05	0.77
On-line services (Internet Memorial Service and green burial webpage)	--	0.09	0.16	0.30	0.48
Dedicated staff	--	--	--	0.34	1.18
<b>Total:</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>0.37</b>	<b>6.09</b>	<b>11.16</b>	<b>11.19</b>

- The number of cases handled by the Department in the past 5 calendar years is given below –

Year	No. of coffin burials	No. of cremations	No. of public niches allocated	No. of cases of scattering of ashes	
				At sea	In Gardens of Remembrance
2013	1 114	38 914	13 143	797	2 354
2014	1 056	41 244	12 246	856	2 697
2015	1 009	42 737	14 967	877	3 196
2016	916	43 556	5 510	900	4 004
2017	919	42 809	543	966	4 966

The expenditure incurred by the Department in providing cemeteries and crematoria services in 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 was \$275.5 million, \$341.4 million, \$327.4 million, \$332.5 million and \$340.6 million (estimate) respectively. There is no breakdown by type of services.

- The number of users and the utilisation rate of the free ferry service provided by the Department for scattering cremated ashes at sea in the past 5 calendar years is given below –

Year	Number of applications handled	Utilisation rate
2013	709	75%
2014	790	88%
2015	817	86%
2016	850	72%
2017	906	77%

Note: The utilisation rate is calculated by the number of applications handled in respective 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, despite the increase in number of applications handled, the utilisation rate has decreased.

The expenditure incurred by the Department for contracting out the free ferry service in 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 was \$1.4 million, \$2.0 million, \$2.1 million, \$2.3 million and \$2.3 million (estimate) respectively.

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