

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)306****(Question Serial No. 5615)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the survey on the operators of columbaria in the territory (i.e. the pre-cut-off columbaria) conducted by the Department on 30 June 2014, please provide information in the table below:

Commencement of columbarium operation	Number of operators involved	Number of niches involved	Area involved
Had niches sold or filled before 1 January 1990 but has ceased operation			
Had niches sold or filled before 1 January 1990 and is still in operation			
Commenced operation on or after 1 January 1990 but before 8 a.m. on 18 June 2014 and is still in operation			

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 146)Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department launched an administrative Notification Scheme in June 2014 for participation by private columbaria on a voluntary basis. The purpose of collecting the information is to facilitate consideration of applications for specified instruments (if any) by the Private Columbaria Licensing Board (PCLB) and to implement the Private Columbaria Ordinance (Cap. 630) and related work.

The PCLB will publish information on the applications for specified instruments received. By then, the public will know which private columbaria have applied for an exemption, a licence and the related temporary suspension of liability. Private columbaria which apply for exemption will have to provide information to prove their “datedness”, i.e. that the columbaria commenced operation before 1 January 1990, which is one of the application requirements for exemption.

Information on the area of the columbarium premises was not collected in the Notification Scheme, and we do not have complete information on whether the columbaria concerned are still in operation. Relevant information collected in the Notification Scheme is as follows –

Time of commencement of operation of columbaria	Number of private columbaria involved
Columbaria which claimed to have commenced operation before 1990	87
Not claimed to be columbaria which commenced operation before 1990	43

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