

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)162**

**(Question Serial No. 0648)**

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:

Before the enactment of the Private Columbaria Ordinance, the Development Bureau used to provide the public with land/lease and town planning information on the private columbaria which had been made known to the Lands Department and/or the Planning Department. The information contained two parts, Part A and Part B, which were presented in two tables.

- Please provide as per the table below the number of various types of applications received after the commencement of the Private Columbaria Ordinance, and the number of applications with which all the required supporting documents or information had been submitted.

Districts	Types of applications	Number of applications submitted by columbaria included in Part A (Number of applications which have provided all the required supporting documents or information)	Number of applications submitted by columbaria included in Part B (Number of applications which have provided all the required supporting documents or information)	Number of applications submitted by columbaria not included in the information provided by the Development Bureau (Number of applications which have provided all the required supporting documents or information)
District 1	Application for a licence	-- (--)	-- (--)	-- (--)
	Application for an exemption	-- (--)	-- (--)	-- (--)
	Application for a temporary suspension of	-- (--)	-- (--)	-- (--)

	liability			
District 2	Application for a licence	-- (--)	-- (--)	-- (--)
	Application for an exemption	-- (--)	-- (--)	-- (--)
	Application for a temporary suspension of liability	-- (--)	-- (--)	-- (--)
...	...	...	...	...
	Total number			

- What is the expected time of the issue of the first batch of licences? How many licences will be granted? What is the expenditure incurred in processing the applications for these licences?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

The Private Columbaria Licensing Board (the Licensing Board) approved 2 licence applications in January and March 2019. The Licensing Board also agreed in principle in February 2019 that another application basically met the requirements for a licence (except for the land-related ones), and will make its final decision after the applicant has complied with the land-related requirements.

As at 18 March 2019, the Licensing Board was processing 333 applications for specified instruments submitted by 136 private columbaria. We do not keep the information requested by district. A summary of the 333 applications is as follows -

<b>Types of applications</b>	<b>Number of applications submitted by columbaria included in Part A (Number of applications which have provided all the required supporting documents or information)</b>	<b>Number of applications submitted by columbaria included in Part B (Number of applications which have provided all the required supporting documents or information)</b>	<b>Number of applications submitted by columbaria not included in the information provided by the Development Bureau (Number of applications which have provided all the required supporting documents or information)</b>
Application for a licence	12 (0)	94 (0)	15 (0)
Application for an exemption	3 (0)	50 (0)	7 (0)
Application for a temporary suspension of liability	14 (0)	121 (0)	17 (0)
Total number of applications	29 (0)	265 (0)	39 (0)

Number of private columbaria	13 (0)	105 (0)	18 (0)
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The estimated expenditure of the Private Columbaria Affairs Office under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in 2019-20 is \$76.2 million. The Department does not keep a separate breakdown of the expenditure involved in processing applications for specified instruments.

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