

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)222

(Question Serial No. 1012)

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:

It is stated that the Department will “continue to implement the Private Columbaria Ordinance”. Since there is a “vacuum period” between the commencement of the Ordinance and the issue of licences, during which operators of private columbaria are not allowed to inter “new ashes” in their niches, there may be demand from members of the public for temporary storage facilities for cremains provided by the Department. In this connection, please advise on the location of the existing temporary storage facilities provided by the Department, their service 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 WONG Kwok-kin (LegCo internal reference no.: 50)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) at present has a total of some 35 000 temporary storage spaces for cremains 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. Those at the Kwai Chung Crematorium and Wo Hop Shek Columbarium Phase III have been open for use. The information sought in respect of these two facilities is provided as follows –

	Kwai Chung Crematorium (For storage of cremains bags)	Wo Hop Shek Columbarium Phase III (For storage of cinerary urns)
Capacity for temporary storage of cremains	10 080 spaces	5 040 spaces
No. of space occupied as at 28.2.2019	1 126	2 471
Usage rate	11.2%	49.0%

In addition, some 41 000 temporary storage spaces will be made available in the coming 2 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 waitlisted.

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