

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)415

(Question Serial No. 6307)

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:

Please provide the following information in the past 5 years in tabular form:

- (1) the number of burials;
- (2) the number of applications for niches in public columbaria and the number of approved cases of interment of cremains;
- (3) the number of applications for scattering cremains at sea, the number of applications approved, and the number of applications rejected and the reason(s) for rejection;
- (4) the number of applications for scattering cremains in the Gardens of Remembrance, the number of applications approved, the number of applications rejected and the reason(s) for rejection, and the number of cases of scattering cremains in each of the 12 Gardens of Remembrance; and
- (5) the costs of providing the services of scattering cremains at sea and scattering cremains in the Gardens of Remembrance for each deceased person to be borne by the Government.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 80)

Reply:

(1) & (2) The information sought is provided as follows -

Calendar Year	No. of Burials	Public Niches			
		New Niches*		Re-allocated Niches*	
		No. of applications	No. of niches allocated	No. of applications	No. of niches re-allocated
2014	3 477	16 321	12 053	5 554	193
2015	3 355	11 627	14 573	7 164	394
2016	3 253		5 239 [#]	6 923	271
2017	2 962			7 931	346
2018	3 136			8 410	448

The last public niches allocation exercise at Kiu Tau Road Columbarium was completed in March 2016. Thereafter, there was no public niches allocation exercise launched by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) and no invitation to the public for niche application was made.

* The year in which new niches and re-allocated niches are allocated may not be the same as that in which the applications are made.

(3) & (4) Information on the number of applications received and approved by the Department for scattering of cremains at sea and in Gardens of Remembrance in the past 5 years is provided as follows -

Calendar Year	Scattering of cremains			
	At sea		In Gardens of Remembrance	
	No. of applications received	No. of approved cases*	No. of applications received	No. of approved cases*
2014	856	856	2 697	2 697
2015	877	877	3 196	3 196
2016	900	900	4 004	4 004
2017	966	966	4 966	4 966
2018	972	972	5 352	5 352

* All applications for scattering of cremains at sea and in Gardens of Remembrance were accepted and there was no rejected case in the past 5 years.

Breakdown on the number of cases on the scattering of cremains in respective Gardens of Remembrance managed by the Department is provided as follows -

Name of Garden of Remembrance	No. of cases on scattering of cremains in respective year				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Cape Collinson (New)	436	510	620	884	924
Cape Collinson (Old)	4	1	3	5	24
Diamond Hill (New)	1 442	1 783	2 162	2 560	2 795
Diamond Hill (Old)	66	97	90	88	5
Kwai Chung (Old)	340	326	464	538	555
Fu Shan	128	127	172	237	272
Wo Hop Shek Phase V	195	285	453	611	740
Wo Hop Shek Phase III	83	66	38	37	24
Cheung Chau	2	1	1	5	12
Peng Chau	1	0	1	1	1
Lamma	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2 697	3 196	4 004	4 966	5 352

- (5) The expenditure incurred by the Department in providing cemeteries and crematoria services, including the service for scattering of cremains at sea and in Gardens of Remembrance, in 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 was \$341.4 million, \$327.4 million, \$332.5 million, \$345.6 million and \$356.9 million (revised estimate) respectively. There is no breakdown by type of services.

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