

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)118****(Question Serial No. 1293)**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:

With regard to “regulating private columbaria under the Private Columbaria Ordinance (Cap. 630)”, 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 the Department’s temporary storage facilities for cremains. 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 KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)Reply:

At present, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department provides some 64 000 temporary storage spaces for cremains at Kwai Chung Crematorium, Wo Hop Shek Columbarium Phases III and V, Cape Collinson Crematorium, Fu Shan Columbarium and Hong Kong Cemetery. The temporary storage spaces at Kwai Chung Crematorium and Wo Hop Shek Columbarium Phase III have been opened for public use. Regarding these two facilities, the information sought is provided as follows:

	<b>Kwai Chung Crematorium (For storage of cremains bags)</b>	<b>Wo Hop Shek Columbarium Phase III (For storage of cinerary urns)</b>
<b>Capacity for temporary storage of cremains</b>	10 080 spaces	5 040 spaces
<b>No. of spaces occupied as at 29.2.2020</b>	1 405	3 492

<b>Usage rate</b>	13.9%	69.3%
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In addition, it is estimated that some 12 000 temporary storage spaces will be available by the end of 2020. The Department has processed all applications for temporary ash storage services. No applications have to be waitlisted.

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