

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)301****(Question Serial No. 4532)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
(4) Public Education and Community InvolvementControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

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 for 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.: 113)Reply:

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

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
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
2019	2 780	30 107	751	2 878 [^]	258

* 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.

[^] The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has ceased to accept applications for allocation of used niches since 26 April 2019. Also, the waiting list for this type of niches has been frozen.

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

Year	Scattering of ashes			
	At sea		In Gardens of Remembrance	
	No. of applications received	No. of approved cases*	No. of applications received	No. of approved cases*
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
2019	899	899	6 280	6 280

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

The breakdown of the number of cases of scattering ashes in Gardens of Remembrance managed by the Department is provided as follows:

Name of Garden of Remembrance	No. of cases of scattering ashes each year				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Cape Collinson (New)	510	620	884	924	1 055
Cape Collinson (Old)	1	3	5	24	18
Diamond Hill (New)	1 783	2 162	2 560	2 795	3 323
Diamond Hill (Old)	97	90	88	5	10
Kwai Chung (New)*					222
Kwai Chung (Old)	326	464	538	555	587
Fu Shan	127	172	237	272	315
Wo Hop Shek Phase V	285	453	611	740	720
Wo Hop Shek Phase III	66	38	37	24	23
Cheung Chau	1	1	5	12	5
Peng Chau	0	1	1	1	2
Lamma Island	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3 196	4 004	4 966	5 352	6 280

* The New Kwai Chung Garden of Remembrance was opened on 23 January 2019.

- (5) The expenditure incurred by the Department in providing cemeteries and crematoria services, including the service for scattering of ashes at sea and in Gardens of Remembrance, in 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 was \$327.4 million, \$332.5 million, \$345.6 million, \$355.4 million and \$407.6 million (revised estimate) respectively. There is no separate breakdown of the expenditure by type of service.

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