

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)140****(Question Serial No. 2539)**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 Diane WONG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please provide the number of licences granted, the number of licence applications approved in principle and the number of applications for a temporary suspension of liability approved in principle since the establishment of the Private Columbaria Licensing Board (PCLB). What are the annual remuneration expenses of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson and the members of PCLB respectively? Please also set out the private columbaria which are currently granted a licence and the number of days required for granting a licence.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 50)Reply:

The Private Columbaria Licensing Board (PCLB) has started to accept applications for specified instruments under the Private Columbaria Ordinance (Cap. 630) since 30 December 2017. As at 28 February 2021, the PCLB was processing 237 applications for specified instruments submitted by 99 private columbaria. The figures are summarised as follows:

Types of applications	Approved	Approved in principle	Refused	Withdrawn	Being processed
Application for a licence	6	2	21	11	87
Application for an exemption	1	1	12	9	39
Application for a temporary suspension of liability (TSOL)	0	11	29	13	111
Total number of applications	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	237
Number of private columbaria	7	13 <sup>Note 1</sup>	26	14	99 <sup>Note 2</sup>

Note 1: “Approval-in-principle” has been given to the application for a TSOL and the application for an exemption submitted by one columbarium.

Note 2: Including 13 columbaria in respect of which “approval-in-principle” has been given to their applications for a licence/an exemption/a TSOL.

The private columbaria which have been granted a licence include the Filial Park; the Pu Tong Ta, Chi Lin Nunnery; the Shan Yuan; the Shatin Po Fook Hill (excluding Miu King Tong); the Tung Wah Coffin Home; and the Lung Shan Temple. The PCLB has also given “approval-in-principle” to the licence applications submitted by the Fung Ying Seen Koon and the Po Tung Tower, Lo Hon Monastery.

The time the PCLB taking to process a licence application depends on the actual circumstances of each case, particularly whether the private columbarium has complied with the relevant requirements under the Private Columbaria Ordinance (Cap. 630) and those specified by the PCLB (including the requirements relating to planning, land, buildings, fire safety, electrical and mechanical safety, management plan, right to use the premises, environmental protection), and whether the applicant has submitted sufficient documents to prove that the private columbarium has complied with such requirements. Upon receiving the documents or information submitted by the applicant as required for an application, the Private Columbaria Affairs Office (PCAO) will invite relevant departments to provide comments. The applicant will then be asked to take follow-up actions and submit reports, which will be forwarded to the relevant departments for vetting. After confirming that an individual licence application has complied with the application requirements, the PCAO will arrange for the submission of the application to the PCLB for determination.

The office of the Chairperson of the PCLB is held by a civil servant, and no separate remuneration is provided. The remuneration expenses of the Deputy Chairperson and the 7 members of the PCLB are as follows:

Year	Total remuneration expenses (\$)
2017-18	106,275
2018-19	184,080
2019-20	145,530
2020-21 (As at 28 February 2021)	110,790

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