

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)170****(Question Serial No. 1171)**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:

With regard to “implementing 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 the temporary storage facilities for cremains offered by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department). In this connection, what are 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.: 61)Reply:

At present, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department provides some 74 500 temporary storage spaces for cremains at Kwai Chung Crematorium, Wo Hop Shek Columbarium Phases III and V, Cape Collinson Crematorium, Fu Shan Crematorium and Hong Kong Cemetery. The temporary storage spaces at Kwai Chung Crematorium and Wo Hop Shek Crematorium 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>Number of spaces occupied as at 28.2.2021</b>	976	1 781
<b>Utilisation rate</b>	9.7%	35.3%

The Department has processed all applications for temporary ash storage services. There is no waiting list at present.

- End -