

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(F)090****(Question Serial No. 0140)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Ms Irene YOUNG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

Since 2018, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has implemented various administrative measures to facilitate the handling of abortuses. The Department has also been actively examining proposals to further improve the arrangements in a holistic manner, including the setting up of 2 abortus keeping facilities, namely the Garden of Forever Love at Wo Hop Shek and the Garden of Forever Love at Cape Collinson. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- (1) the number of keeping spaces currently provided by the 2 abortus keeping facilities and their utilisation rates;
- (2) the number of applications for abortus keeping services and the number of applications granted in each of the past 5 years;
- (3) the actual expenditure or the revised estimated expenditure incurred by the abortus keeping facilities in each of the past 5 years; and
- (4) whether the Government has plans to set up more abortus keeping facilities; if yes, the details; if no, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon LAI Tung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)Reply:

- (1) The number of keeping spaces provided by the 2 abortus keeping facilities for abortuses of less than 24 weeks' gestation under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and their utilisation rates as at 29 February 2024 are as follows:

Name of abortus keeping facility	Number of abortus keeping spaces	Number of abortus keeping spaces already in use	Utilisation rate
Garden of Forever Love at Wo Hop Shek	300	300	100.0%
Garden of Forever Love at Cape Collinson	400	159	39.8%

- (2) In the past 5 years, all applications for abortus keeping services were granted. The number of such applications and the number of applications granted are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of applications	Number of applications granted
2019	82	82
2020	77	77
2021	123	123
2022	113	113
2023	58	58

- (3) The overall expenditures incurred by the Department in providing cemeteries and crematoria services, including abortus keeping services, in the financial years of 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 were \$419.7 million, \$445.9 million, \$490.8 million, \$558.8 million and \$509.0 million (revised estimate) respectively. There is no separate breakdown of the expenditure on abortus keeping services.
- (4) The Department will continue to provide more abortus keeping facilities. The Department has also planned to set up a Garden of Forever Love at Wo Hop Shek Cemetery in Fanling in 2024 and another one at Shek Mun Columbarium in Sha Tin in 2025, providing 600 and 300 keeping spaces respectively.

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