

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****EEB(F)100****(Question Serial No. 3066)**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:

- (1) What are the names of the public columbaria currently managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in Hong Kong and the respective number of niches they provided? In which of the 18 districts are these columbaria located?
- (2) What are the details of the public columbarium development scheme currently implemented, including the project names, the number of niches provided, the districts in which they are located and the expected completion dates?
- (3) What are the number of deaths of local residents and their burial methods in each of the past 5 years?
- (4) What are the number of applications for allocation of new niches and the number of successful applications with niches allocated in each of the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)Reply:

- (1) The number of niches provided at public columbaria currently under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the districts in which they are located are tabulated below:

<b>Name of public columbarium</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Number of niches provided</b>
Cape Collinson Columbarium, Chai Wan	Eastern	61 615
Cape Collinson-San Ha Columbarium, Chai Wan	Eastern	25 340
Diamond Hill Columbarium	Wong Tai Sin	63 351
Fu Shan Columbarium, Tai Wai	Sha Tin	9 625
Kwai Chung Columbarium	Kwai Tsing	9 276
Tsang Tsui Columbarium, Tuen Mun	Tuen Mun	163 320
Wo Hop Shek Columbarium, Fanling	North	110 100
Wong Nai Chung Road Columbarium, Wan Chai	Wan Chai	855

<b>Name of public columbarium</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Number of niches provided</b>
Cheung Chau Columbarium	Islands	4 585
Lai Chi Yuen Columbarium, Mui Wo	Islands	790
Lamma Columbarium	Islands	490
Peng Chau Columbarium	Islands	850

- (2) The Government is taking forward a number of columbarium development projects, with a view to securing a stable medium and long-term supply of public niches. Among them, the project at Shek Mun in Sha Tin, which has obtained funding for construction, is expected to be completed in 2025 and will provide around 40 000 niches. Furthermore, the Government consulted the relevant District Council on the initial design at Siu Ho Wan on Lantau Island. The project is expected to provide around 33 500 niches. The Government will continue to take forward other new projects, with a view to securing a stable medium and long-term supply of public niches.
- (3) Information on the number of deaths of local residents and their burial methods in the past 5 years is as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of deaths</b>	<b>Number of burials#</b>	<b>Number of cremations</b>	<b>Number of cases of scattering of ashes</b>		<b>Number of ashes interment in public niches</b>
				<b>At sea</b>	<b>In Gardens of Remembrance*</b>	
2019	48 706	2 780	45 543	899	7 010	4 196
2020	50 653	2 852	46 465	854	6 822	39 598
2021	51 536	2 712	48 106	906	7 112	32 256
2022	61 557	2 957	59 685	1 012	8 437	26 473
2023	56 776	2 517	52 795	1 144	8 237	25 399

# Inclusive of the number of burials in private cemeteries and permitted burial grounds.

\* Inclusive of the number of cases of scattering ashes in private cemeteries.

- (4) The current supply of public niches is adequate. For allocation of public niches, eligible applicants may apply for the comprehensive allocation of public niches carried out once a year or the allocation of about 1 700 public niches at the Tsang Tsui Columbarium on a monthly basis. Since mid-2020, all applicants have been successfully allocated with niches. In general, there is no need to wait. The number of applications for allocation of new public niches in the past 5 years is as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of applications for new public niches</b>
2019	30 107
2020	29 156
2021	24 211
2022	24 241
2023	24 040

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