

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)068

(Question Serial No. 1970)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Donald NG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

To cultivate public awareness and develop the habit of disposal of cremated human ashes in a sustainable manner, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department promotes green burial service through publicity and education. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were (i) the total operating cost, (ii) the manpower for operation, and (iii) the number of activity sessions in respect of the "School of Life" promotion campaign in the past year?
- (b) Please set out (i) the number of applicants for visits to Gardens of Remembrance, (ii) the number of visits held, and (iii) the relevant expenditure and staffing cost involved in the past year in tabular form, with a breakdown by Garden of Remembrance.
- (c) Will the Department consider increasing resources for online education in the future to provide more information on early planning of after-death arrangements for the public, so as to cultivate the awareness and ability of the public to plan ahead for their after-death arrangements? If yes, what are the details? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?
- (d) Will the Department step up the promotion of "early planning of after-death arrangements" through social media and add an information page to the "After-death Arrangements" thematic website, setting out the contact details of relevant non-government organisations and the information on related promotional activities, to help the public seek community support? If yes, what are the details? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, JoePHY (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department launched a series of activities under the theme of "School of Life" in the past year, including 2 interactive exhibitions, 20 in-depth community tours and 40 life and death education activities for the youth. The "School of Life" online publicity programme has also been launched since April 2025.

The Department organised free guided tours of Gardens of Remembrance (GoRs) for the public in the past year. The details are as follows:

Tour venue	Number of tours	Number of participants
Tsang Tsui GoR	44	1 212
Shek Mun GoR	19	584
Kwai Chung GoR	30	689
Diamond Hill GoR	15	440
Total:	108	2 925

Green burial promotion, including “School of Life” activities and guided GoR tours, is coordinated by a dedicated team comprising 6 full-time staff. The total expenditure on promoting green burial, including staffing expenditure, in the 2025-26 financial year was about \$18 million.

- (c) and (d) In 2025, the Department launched a series of “School of Life” online publicity through an online news media to produce detailed green burial videos on topics such as experience sharing by past green burial service users, application procedures for green burial services, provision of practical information on end-of-life arrangements and clarification of common misconceptions about green burial. The programme attracted over 400 000 views.

The Department has been consistently strengthening green burial promotion through various channels, including social media, and a new series of online publicity videos will be launched in April 2026. Featuring topics such as sharing of personal experiences and thoughts by green burial service users, experiences of using the new memorial facilities at the Department’s GoRs, “Five-Ways Expression Recipe”, etc., the videos serve to incorporate life and death education into daily lives and encourage members of the public to plan ahead for after-death arrangements, register in the Green Burial Central Register and inform their families of their wishes. The videos will also provide practical information on venue facilities, discuss life and death topics in a positive and constructive manner, and address common misconceptions about green burial. In addition, the Department will add a page to the “After-death Arrangements” thematic website, providing details of other relevant funeral support service providers, links to their websites and their contact information.

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