

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)094

(Question Serial No. 1009)

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:

With an aging population in Hong Kong, the public demand for burial facilities has become increasingly keen. To meet the long-term demand for facilities and services related to the disposal of cremated ashes, the Government has been making strenuous efforts to promote green burial as a more environmentally-friendly and sustainable means of handling human ashes in recent years. In this connection, please advise this Committee:

1. of (i) the respective numbers of cases in which ashes were scattered in relevant locations (i.e. in Gardens of Remembrance (GoRs) managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, GoRs in private cemeteries, and at sea), (ii) the percentage of green burial cases out of the total number of burial cases, and (iii) the utilisation rates of various GoRs managed by the Department, in each of the past 3 years;
2. of the number of users and the hit rate of the Internet Memorial Service website in each of the past 3 years;
3. of the total number of members of the public registered with the Green Burial Central Register, and the actual number of registrants therein whose cremated ashes were handled in the form of green burial in accordance with their wishes before death, in each of the past 3 years;
4. whether the Government will continue to build GoRs or encourage the participation of non-governmental organisations in 2026-27 to further increase the supply of green burial facilities. If so, please set out the planned sites, the estimated expenditure for the building works and operating expenses, as well as the expected increase in service capacity.

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

- 1(i)&(ii) The numbers of green burial cases and their percentages out of the total number of deaths in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	Scattering of ashes			Percentage out of the total number of deaths
	In Gardens of Remembrance (GoRs)*	At sea	Total	
2023	8 237	1 144	9 381	16.5%
2024	8 522	1 032	9 554	18.2%
2025	8 951	937	9 888	19.1%

* Including cases handled by private cemeteries.

- 1(iii) The numbers of cases of scattering ashes in each of the GoRs managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in the past 3 years and their percentages out of the total number of cases yearly are as follows:

Name of GoR	2023		2024		2025	
	Number of applications	Percentage (%)	Number of applications	Percentage (%)	Number of applications	Percentage (%)
Diamond Hill Garden of Remembrance (New)	3 421	45.8%	3 516	45.7%	3 507	44.8%
Cape Collinson Garden of Remembrance (New)	1 317	17.6%	1 319	17.1%	1 302	16.6%
Tsang Tsui Garden of Remembrance	831	11.1%	1 064	13.8%	1 068	13.6%
Wo Hop Shek Garden of Remembrance (Phase V)	733	9.8%	668	8.7%	658	8.4%
Kwai Chung Garden of Remembrance (Old)	481	6.4%	414	5.4%	324	4.1%
Fu Shan Garden of Remembrance	371	5.0%	394	5.1%	380	4.9%
Kwai Chung Garden of Remembrance (New)	238	3.2%	240	3.1%	267	3.4%
Shek Mun Garden of Remembrance*	-	-	-	-	234	3.0%
Wo Hop Shek Garden of Remembrance (Phase III)	65	0.9%	65	0.8%	74	0.9%

Name of GoR	2023		2024		2025	
	Number of applications	Percentage (%)	Number of applications	Percentage (%)	Number of applications	Percentage (%)
Cheung Chau Garden of Remembrance	4	0.1%	10	0.1%	12	0.2%
Peng Chau Garden of Remembrance	1	0.0%	1	0.0%	7	0.1%
Cape Collinson Garden of Remembrance (Old)	3	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Diamond Hill Garden of Remembrance (Old)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Lamma Garden of Remembrance	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	7 465	100.0%	7 691	100.0%	7 833	100.0%

* Shek Mun Garden of Remembrance was commissioned on 26 September 2025.

2. Statistics about the website and mobile app of the Internet Memorial Service (IMS) for the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	Number of users	Hit rate of the website
2023	9 273	697 014
2024	9 684	648 075
2025	9 010	765 329

3. The number of registrants of the Green Burial Central Register and the number of cases in which cremated ashes were handled in the form of green burial in each of the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	Number of registrants	Number of deceased registrants	Number of deceased registrants whose cremated ashes were handled in the form of green burial (percentage of the number of deceased registrants)
2023	2 266	175	118 (67%)
2024	3 250	237	208 (88%)
2025	2 582	260	223 (86%)

4. The Shek Mun Columbarium and Garden of Remembrance in Sha Tin, which was constructed by the Government, was officially commissioned in September 2025. At present, the number of GoRs managed by the Department, where the public may apply for scattering cremated ashes therein, has increased to 14. In addition, the

GoR at the Sandy Ridge Cemetery designated for the scattering of ashes of unclaimed bodies was officially commissioned on 22 October 2025. We also encourage non-governmental organisations and religious bodies to build GoRs at suitable locations under their management. Green burial facilities have been added in the Junk Bay Chinese Permanent Cemetery, the Pokfulam Chinese Christian Cemetery, the Hong Kong Buddhist Cemetery in Cape Collinson and St. Raphael's Catholic Cemetery in Cheung Sha Wan.

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