

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)101

(Question Serial No. 0374)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In this Programme, it is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026-27 that the Department will continue to take forward plans and projects to provide more crematorium and columbarium facilities. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. What were the number of deaths of local residents and the number of ash interment cases in public niches in the past 3 years?
2. What are the number of niches currently provided by all public columbarium facilities across the territory and their utilisation rate? Please provide a breakdown by district.
3. Does the Department have any plans for the development of new columbaria to meet the ongoing demand for public niches in the future?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

- 1) The number of deaths of local residents and the number of ash interment cases in public niches in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	Number of deaths	Number of ash interment cases in public niches
2023	56 776	25 399
2024	52 366	23 934
2025	51 750	23 486

- 2) The number of niches currently provided by all public columbarium facilities across the territory and their utilisation rate, with a breakdown by district, are as follows:

Name of public columbarium	District	Number of niches provided	Utilisation rate
Cape Collinson Columbarium, Chai Wan	Eastern	61 615	100.0%

Name of public columbarium	District	Number of niches provided	Utilisation rate
Cape Collinson-San Ha Columbarium, Chai Wan*	Eastern	25 340	54.7%
Wong Nai Chung Road Columbarium, Wan Chai	Wan Chai	855	100.0%
Diamond Hill Columbarium	Wong Tai Sin	63 351	100.0%
Kwai Chung Columbarium	Kwai Tsing	9 276	100.0%
Fu Shan Columbarium, Tai Wai	Sha Tin	9 625	100.0%
Shek Mun Columbarium, Sha Tin*	Sha Tin	40 070	8.3%
Tsang Tsui Columbarium, Tuen Mun*	Tuen Mun	163 320	56.6%
Wo Hop Shek Columbarium, Fanling	North	110 100	90.8%
Cheung Chau Columbarium	Islands	4 585	92.8%
Lamma Columbarium	Islands	490	28.0%
Peng Chau Columbarium	Islands	850	75.1%
Lai Chi Yuen Columbarium, Mui Wo	Islands	790	12.5%

* Tsang Tsui Columbarium in Tuen Mun, Cape Collinson-San Ha Columbarium in Chai Wan and Shek Mun Columbarium in Sha Tin were completed and commissioned in 2020, 2023 and 2025 respectively. As they have been commissioned for only a short period of time, their utilisation rates are relatively lower.

- 3) While the current supply of public niches is adequate and the number of families that opt for scattering of ashes has increased, the Government endeavours to implement the columbarium development plan to cope with the medium- and long-term demand of niches. As at 31 December 2025, 8 public columbarium projects located at Diamond Hill in Wong Tai Sin, Cheung Chau, Wong Nai Chung Road in Wan Chai, Lai Chi Yuen in Mui Wo, Tsang Tsui in Tuen Mun, Wo Hop Shek Phase 1, Cape Collinson Road in Eastern District and Shek Mun in Sha Tin had been completed, providing around 280 000 new public niches in total. These niches have already been open for application for allocation. The Government will continue to review the situation to plan and take forward new projects, with a view to maintaining a stable medium- and long-term supply of public niches.

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