

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 2881)

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:

Regarding the promotion of green burial, please advise this Committee:

1. of the current number of registrants of the Green Burial Central Register;
2. of the number of burial cases by way of scattering ashes at sea or in Gardens of Remembrance (GoRs) and their percentage in the total number of deaths in each of the past 3 years;
3. of the overall expenditure incurred by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in providing cemeteries and crematoria services (including the services of scattering ashes at sea and in GoRs) in the past 3 years;
4. whether the effectiveness of the promotion and implementation work of green burial has been assessed; if yes, the details; if no, the reason(s); and
5. of the staffing and expenditure involved in the promotion of green burial.

Asked by: Hon YANG Wing-kit (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

1. As at December 2025, 17 670 members of the public had registered in the Green Burial Central Register.
2. The number of burial cases by way of scattering ashes at sea or in Gardens of Remembrance (GoRs) and their percentage in the total number of deaths in each of the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of green burial cases			Percentage in the total number of deaths (%)
	Scattering of ashes at sea	Scattering of ashes in GoRs*	Total	
2023	1 144	8 237	9 381	16.5%
2024	1 032	8 522	9 554	18.2%
2025	937	8 951	9 888	19.1%

* Inclusive of cases of scattering ashes in GoRs of private cemeteries.

3. The overall expenditure incurred by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in providing cemeteries and crematoria services, including the services of scattering ashes at sea and in GoRs, in the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Overall expenditure (\$ million)
2023-24	536.4
2024-25	566.4
2025-26 (Revised estimate)	594.3

4. The Department keeps reviewing the effectiveness of its promotion of green burial through on-going monitoring and analysis of the relevant statistics, including the data of people opting for green burial, the utilisation of green burial facilities and the number of registrations in the Green Burial Central Register, to adjust and enhance the promotion work of green burial.

The efforts the Government made over the years to promote green burial are bearing fruit. The number of green burial cases handled in 2025 accounted for 19.1% of the total number of deaths in Hong Kong, an increase of more than two-fold as compared to 8.4% in 2014.

Green burial allows our ashes to return to nature. It is an environmentally friendly and sustainable means of handling cremated ashes. The Department will continue to optimise its facilities and services of green burial and strengthen the publicity and promotion work, with a view to encouraging the public to take green burial for handling ashes as a priority option.

5. Green burial promotion is coordinated by a dedicated team comprising 6 full-time staff. The revised estimated expenditure on promoting green burial in the 2025-26 financial year was about \$18 million.

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