



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

26 April 2018

Ms Josephine SO
Secretary to the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Fax no.: 2509 9055)

Dear Ms SO,

**Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene Meeting
on 13 March 2018**

**Supplementary Information to Paper on
“Provision of Columbarium at Cape Collision Road in Chai Wan”**

At the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene (“Panel”) meeting on 13 March 2018, the Government briefed Members on the provision of columbarium at Cape Collision Road in Chai Wan (LC Paper No. CB(2)985/17-18(03)). The Panel requested the Government to provide supplementary information. Our response is in the ensuing paragraphs.

(a) (i) Details of the traffic improvement measures to be implemented by the Government to cope with the additional traffic and pedestrian volume arising from the construction of a columbarium block at Cape Collinson Road in Chai Wan

2. To tie in with the columbarium block project, a pedestrian access route with escalators and stairways connecting Cape Collinson Road and San Ha Street will be constructed. In addition, relevant departments will undertake three road widening and improvement projects at a section of Cape Collinson Road, the west-bound lane of Wan Chui Road near Lin Shing Road, and Lin Shing Road near its junction with Cape Collinson Road.

3. The pedestrian access route will include a two-way escalator system consisting of 6 sections. Each escalator is about 1 metre in width. The total length of the escalator system is about 200 metres. The system has a transparent cover and some energy efficient features. A trip by escalator from San Ha Street to Cape Collinson Road takes about 7 minutes. The two-way escalator system can carry a total of about 5 000 pedestrian trips per hour. As it is estimated that about 2 400 worshippers will visit the proposed development in the busiest hour in the peak worship periods during the Ching Ming and Chung Yeung Festivals, the escalator system may also be used by worshippers visiting other cemeteries and columbarium facilities along Cape Collinson Road. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) will manually control the escalator system in the peak hours during the Ching Ming and Chung Yeung Festivals. The operation mode of the two escalators will be switched from two-way to one-way (both escalators moving upwards) in order to facilitate movement of the crowd making use of the escalator system between San Ha Street and Cape Collinson Road. With both escalators going uphill, people going downhill may use the adjacent stairways, which are around 1.8 metres wide. FEHD will deploy extra manpower to manage the crowd movement. During off-peak hours, when no passenger is present, the escalators will remain stationary in stand-by mode. When the escalators detect a person coming near, they will start moving slowly to prepare for the ride of the passenger.

4. The design and installation of the escalator system under this project must comply with the Building (Construction) Regulations, the Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Buildings and the Code of Practice on the Design and Construction of Lifts and Escalators issued by the Buildings Department to ensure safety during the use of the outdoor escalator system. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department will be responsible for the daily repair and maintenance of the escalator system. Its

duty technician will monitor the daily operation of the escalator system through closed-circuit television. Follow-up actions will be taken immediately when failure is detected in order to ensure safety of the passengers.

5. Details of the three road widening and improvement projects to be undertaken are as follows:

(a) A section of Cape Collinson Road

The carriageways and footways of a section of Cape Collinson Road outside the proposed development will be widened to at least 7.3 metres and 3 metres respectively to ease the pedestrian flow of visitors to the proposed site.

(b) The west-bound lane of Wan Chui Road near Lin Shing Road

To improve the traffic flow on the west-bound lane of Wan Chui Road near Lin Shing Road, the Transport Department has proposed to build a new bus bay on Wan Chui Road so that public buses will not block the traffic when they are loading or unloading passengers. The Housing Department, the Lands Department, the Highways Department and the Transport Department have been maintaining close communication with a view to taking forward the improvement works.

(c) Lin Shing Road near its junction with Cape Collinson Road

The Transport Department will build two new bus bays at this junction. The carriageways and footways there will be widened, and a 3-metre wide loading and unloading area will be provided in order to segregate pedestrians and vehicles at the junction. The Housing Department, the Highways Department, the Lands Department and the Transport Department have been maintaining close communication with a view to taking forward the improvement works.

(a) (ii) Details of the greening works and environmental mitigation measures relating to the proposed project

6. Besides roof greening, at-grade greenery and vertical greening incorporated in the project, we will provide slope greening in the site for environmental and amenity benefits.

7. This is not a designated project under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499). The Preliminary Environmental Review (PER) for the project was completed in November 2017. The Director of Environmental Protection agreed with the findings of the PER. We undertake to implement a number of mitigation measures as recommended in the PER including frequent watering suppression, use of quiet construction plant and erection of purpose-built temporary noise barrier during the works period and adoption of smokeless joss paper facilities including electrostatic precipitators.

(b) Whether the Government will consider the provision of lift service for people travelling between Cape Collinson Road and San Ha Street under the proposed project apart from the construction of a pedestrian access route with escalators and stairways; if so, details of the plan.

8. In response to the request of Legislative Council Members, we have reviewed again the results of the previous study on the provision of lifts connecting San Ha Street and Cape Collinson Road and confirmed that it is not advisable to install lifts under the proposed pedestrian access route works for the following reasons:

- There is a 70m level difference between San Ha Street and Cape Collinson Road. The distance exceeds 130m at grade. Construction of a number of lift towers and a long span footbridge is required for the provision of lifts on the slope within the site boundary, which involves large scale site formation and slope stabilisation works and is technically complex and difficult. Furthermore, the space available for the construction of the lift towers and the long span footbridge is very confined that it is extremely difficult to provide a construction access while ensuring the safety of pedestrians.
- Due to space constraints, people using the escalators and lifts will have to share the queuing areas on the landing platforms at San Ha Street, Cape Collinson Road and the the hillside intermediate landings. The queuing areas will become bottlenecks during the Ching Ming and Chung Yeung festive periods, causing tremendous difficulties, risks and potential safety concerns in crowd control and management. This is highly undesirable.

- Construction of lift towers and the long span footbridge will not only create adverse visual impact on the slope but also affect the views of nearby residents.

Therefore, there is no provision of lift in the project.

(c) (i) Whether energy saving installations/renewable energy facilities will be provided at the columbarium block and if yes, the details.

9. This project will adopt various forms of energy efficient features and renewable energy technologies, in particular –

- (a) light-emitting diode (LED) light fittings;
- (b) heat energy reclaim of exhaust air; and
- (c) solar powered light fittings.

10. For recycled features, the project will adopt rainwater harvesting system for landscape irrigation. The energy efficient features will achieve 5% energy savings in the annual energy consumption with a payback period of about 6 years.

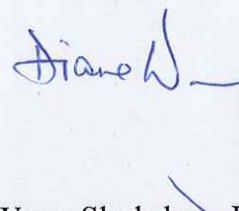
(c) (ii) Whether drinking fountains will be provided at the columbarium block and if yes, the details.

11. The current design of the columbarium does not include drinking fountains. However, it is worthwhile in principle to provide drinking fountains in the columbarium block, and FEHD and the Architectural Services Department will further examine the issue.

12. Besides, the Government was also requested by the Panel to report on the progress of and provide the timetable for taking forward the proposed public columbarium developments in the 24 sites identified under the District-based Columbarium Development Scheme. The Government is committed to taking forward the development projects. Whether the sites could eventually be used for developing the planned columbarium facilities would depend on the results of the initial studies, including engineering feasibility studies, technical feasibility studies and traffic impact assessments (where applicable). Upon completion of the initial studies, we would consult the District Councils (DCs) concerned before developing the sites for

columbarium use. The challenges that we have to cope with in the process include those relating to topographical constraints, compatibility of the development project with adjacent land uses, adequacy of supporting infrastructure, traffic and environmental impacts, as well as the concerns of various stakeholders. We have consulted nine DCs on 14 projects and they indicated their support for these projects. Together, the 14 projects can provide a total of about 600 000 new niches. The Government will continue to consult the DCs on the remaining projects to fortify the supply of public niches in the coming years. The progress update of various projects is set out in Annex.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Diane W.", with a vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

(Miss Wong Shuk-han, Diane)
for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c.: Assistant Director (Grade Management and Development), FEHD

24 potential sites for public columbarium developments

	District	Location	Approximate number of niches	Progress	Actual/Target Commissioning Year
1	Wong Tai Sin	Diamond Hill Columbarium extension	1 540	Completed	2012
2	Islands	Cheung Chau Cemetery extension	1 000	Completed	2013
			1 400	Works will commence in Sep 2018 and be completed in early 2019.	2019
3	Wan Chai	Hong Kong Cemeteries and Crematoria Office (part) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department at Wong Nai Chung Road	855	Works commenced in Mar 2018 and will be completed in end 2018.	2018
4	Tuen Mun	Part of the Tsang Tsui ash lagoon next to Black Point Power Station	160 000	Works commenced in the fourth quarter of 2016 and the columbarium block is expected to be completed in the second half of 2019.	2019
5	North	Surplus coffin burial grounds and other land within the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery	Phase I: 44 000 Phase II: 35 000 Phase III: 25 000	Works for Phase I commenced in end Dec 2016 and will be completed in end 2019. Timetable for Phases II and III is to be confirmed.	2019 (Phase I)

	District	Location	Approximate number of niches	Progress	Actual/Target Commissioning Year
6	Islands	Mui Wo Lai Chi Yuen Cemetery extension	790	Works are expected to commence in the second half of 2018 and will be completed in the first half of 2020.	2020
7	Eastern	A site on Cape Collinson Road opposite the Chai Wan Chinese Permanent Cemetery Columbarium and next to Wan Tsui Estate Park	25 000	We plan to seek finding approval from the Finance Committee of the LegCo before LegCo summer recess in 2018.	2022 (tentative)
8	North	Undeveloped areas within the Sandy Ridge Cemetery	200 000	After obtaining funding approval from the Finance Committee of the LegCo, the site formation and infrastructure works commenced in Dec 2017 and will be completed in mid-2021.	The columbarium facilities will be completed in phases starting from 2024. (tentative)
9	Kwai Ching	A site on Tsing Tsuen Road near the Tsuen Wan Chinese Permanent Cemetery	20 000	Consultation with District Council on traffic impact assessment (“TIA”) and initial design has been conducted.	To be confirmed
10&11	Kwai Ching	Site at the Ex-Kwai Chung Incineration Plant at Kwai Yue Street and Site on Kwai Tai Road, southeast of Ex-	68 500	Consultation with District Council on TIA has been conducted.	To be confirmed

	District	Location	Approximate number of niches	Progress	Actual/Target Commissioning Year
		Kwai Chung Incineration Plant			
12	Tsuen Wan	Site located at the eastern end of Sham Shui Kok Drive, Siu Ho Wan, North Lantau	10 300	Consultation with District Council on TIA has been conducted.	To be confirmed
13	Tsuen Wan	Site located at the western end of Sham Shui Kok Drive, Siu Ho Wan, North Lantau	15 700		To be confirmed
14	Sha Tin	A site on On Hing Lane, Shek Mun, next to Shatin Transfer Station	40 000	Consultation with District Council on TIA has been conducted.	To be confirmed
15	Sha Tin	Fu Shan Columbarium Extension	Not applicable	The Panel was informed via LC Paper No. CB(2)1531/15-16(01) (17 May 2016) that the site at Fu Shan would be used for reprovisioning of the Fu Shan Public Mortuary.	Not applicable
16	Tai Po	Site at the southwestern corner of the Shuen Wan Ex-Landfill, near Tai Po Industrial Estate	To be confirmed	Consultation with District Council was conducted in May 2017. Views received are being collated.	To be confirmed
17	Yuen Long	Site between San Tam Road and Mai Po Lung Road, San Tin	To be confirmed	Consultation with District Council is being planned.	To be confirmed

	District	Location	Approximate number of niches	Progress	Actual/Target Commissioning Year
18	Sai Kung	Site at Area 132, Tseung Kwan O, near the Tseung Kwan O Chinese Permanent Cemetery	To be confirmed	Consultation with District Council is being planned.	To be confirmed
19	Central/Western	Site at Mount Davis Road, east of Chiu Yuen Cemetery	To be confirmed	Consultation with District Council is being planned.	To be confirmed
20	Southern	Site adjoining the Chinese Christian Cemetery at Pok Fu Lam	To be confirmed	Consultation with District Council is being planned.	To be confirmed
21	Sham Shui Po	Site at north of Ching Cheung Road near Roman Catholic Cemetery	To be confirmed	Consultation with District Council is being planned.	To be confirmed
22	Yau Tsim Mong	Former school within Tin Hau Temple on Temple Street	To be confirmed	Consultation with District Council is being planned.	To be confirmed
23	Kowloon City	A vacant staff quarter (part thereof) inside a funeral parlour at 6 Cheong Hang Road, Hung Hom	To be confirmed	Consultation with District Council is being planned.	To be confirmed
24	Kwun Tong	Site next to the Ex-Ma Yau Tong Central Landfill	To be confirmed	Consultation with District Council is being planned.	To be confirmed