

For discussion
on 15 December 2014

Bills Committee on Private Columbaria Bill

Proposed Work Plan

Introduction

This paper sets out the proposed work plan on taking forward the Private Columbaria Bill (“the Bill”) for Members’ consideration.

Proposed Arrangements

3. Now that Members have completed deliberation on the general issues by December 2014, Members may wish to proceed to the stage of examining the provisions clause-by-clause from January 2015. The Bill contains 11 parts (118 clauses) and seven schedules. We propose that we group them into four groups as set out at **Annex**, to facilitate Members’ scrutiny of the Bill.

4. Subject to completion of the clause-by-clause examination before the summer recess of 2015, the Administration would draw up the Committee Stage Amendments for discussion with the Bills Committee in the last quarter of 2015. If all goes well, the Bills Committee deliberation would be completed thereafter and the resumption of the second reading of the Bill could take place in the first quarter of 2016. The Private Columbaria Ordinance could then commence on or before 1 July 2016.

Advice Sought

5. Members are invited to consider and endorse the proposed arrangements and timetable.

Food and Health Bureau
December 2014

**Proposed Work Plan for the
Bills Committee on Private Columbaria Bill**

Subject		Relevant Part and Schedule	No. of Meetings Required (Estimated Timing)
Clause-by-clause examination			
1	General introduction of the licensing regime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definitions and coverage of the Bill Exclusions and exemptions 	Part 1 (clauses 1 to 5)	0.5 (January 2015)
2	Instruments required for operating a columbarium – licence, exemption and temporary suspension of liability (TSOL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligibility criteria of licence Grandfathering arrangements for pre-Bill columbaria, including — <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Modification applicable to pre-Bill columbaria applying for a licence; and (ii) Eligibility criteria of exemption and TSOL Notification scheme 	Part 3 (clauses 8 and 9); Part 4 (clauses 10 to 31); Schedule 2; and Schedule 3	3 (January to April 2015)
3	(a) Licensing authority and appeal mechanism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed licensing board Power of the licensing board Appeal mechanism 	Part 2 (clauses 6 and 7); Part 4 (clauses 32 to 39); Part 8 (clauses 70 to 80); Part 9 (clause 93); and Schedule 1	2 (April to June 2015)
	(b) Duties and obligations relating to the operation of columbaria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details to be included in the agreement for sale of interment right Day-to-day operational requirements Proper disposal of ashes, including in case of cessation of a columbarium operation (Occupation order and prescribed ash disposal procedures) 	Part 5 (clauses 40 to 47); Part 7 (clauses 55 to 69); Schedule 4; and Schedule 5	
4	Miscellaneous matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforcement (powers conferred upon and delegation by the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene) Guidelines, codes of practice, as well as template for management plan and template for agreement Implications on other legislation and consequential amendments Fees and charges Transitional arrangements 	Part 6 (clauses 48 to 54); Part 9 (clauses 81 to 92 and 94 to 95); Part 10 (clauses 96 to 100); Part 11 (clauses 101 to 118); Schedule 6; and Schedule 7	1.5 (June to July 2015)

Overall review (including Committee Stage Amendments)	3 (October to December 2015)
Completion of the Bills Committee deliberation and Estimated date of resumption of second reading	First quarter of 2016
Commencement of the Private Columbaria Ordinance	on or before 1 July 2016