

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)990/13-14
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/FE

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Minutes of special meeting
held on Tuesday, 19 November 2013, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

- Members present** :
- Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan (Chairman)
 - Hon Steven HO Chun-yin (Deputy Chairman)
 - Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP
 - Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP
 - Hon WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH
 - Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
 - Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
 - Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
 - Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
 - Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS
 - Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
 - Hon WONG Yuk-man
 - Hon Claudia MO
 - Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
 - Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
 - Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
 - Hon CHAN Han-pan
 - Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok
 - Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, JP
 - Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
 - Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP
- Members attending** :
- Hon James TO Kun-sun
 - Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai
 - Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP

Member absent : Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP, PhD, RN

Public Officers attending : Item I

The Administration

Dr KO Wing-man, BBS, JP
Secretary for Food and Health

Mrs Marion LAI CHAN Chi-kuen, JP
Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Miss Diane WONG Shuk-han
Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food) 2

Mr Kevin CHOI
Principal Assistant Secretary (Planning and Lands) 2
Development Bureau

Ms CHU Lan-ying, JP
Assistant Director (Grade Management and Development)
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Ms Christine TSE Kin-ching
Assistant Director of Planning / Special Duties
Planning Department

Ms Olga LAM Wai-ha, JP
Assistant Director (Estate Management) (Lands
Administration Office / Headquarters)
Lands Department

Ms Trevina KUNG
Chief Estate Surveyor (Estate Management)
Lands Department

Mr CHEUNG Tin-cheung
Assistant Director/Existing Buildings (2)
Buildings Department

PricewaterhouseCoopers Advisory Services Limited

Mr Marcello De Guisa
Partner

Mr Antonio Fernandes
Associate Director

Ms Catherine TSUI
Senior Manager

Item II

Dr KO Wing-man, BBS, JP
Secretary for Food and Health

Mrs Marion LAI CHAN Chi-kuen, JP
Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Dr Thomas SIT Hon-chung
Assistant Director (Inspection and Quarantine)
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Dr Shirley Veronica CHUK Sheung-ying
Senior Veterinary Officer (Animal Health)
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Mr SIN Kwok-hau, JP
Assistant Director (Operations) 3
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Dr LEE Siu-yuen, JP
Assistant Director (Food Surveillance and Control),
Centre for Food Safety
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Attendance : Item I
by invitation

Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of
Hong Kong

Mr Benny POON
Deputy Spokesperson on Food Safety and
Environmental Hygiene Affair

The Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong

Mr FOO Wai-lok
Principal Consultant (Policy and Legal Support)

Individual

Mr CHENG Cho-kwong, MH
Sha Tin District Council Member

New People's Party

Mr Henry PAK Hon-pan
Community Development Officer

Individual

Mr Ken CHOW
Yuen Long District Council Member

Hung Hom Women's Association

Mr Daniel LAM Tak-shing
Organizer

Hung Hom Resident Service Organization

Mr SIU Tin-hung
Organizer

Yat Tung Community Network Association

Mr KWOK Chung-man
Representative

Designing Hong Kong

Mr Paul Zimmerman
Chief Executive Officer

Alliance for the Concern Over Columbarium Policy

Mr Eddie TSE Sai-kit
Convenor

Individual

Mr Pius YUM Kwok-tung
Kowloon City District Council Member

Individual

Mr TSE Shing-kong
Hung Hom Resident

Individual

Ms HO Hang-mui
Tuen Mun District Council Member

The Corporated Owners' of Parkland Villas

Mr Kenneth CHAN Chun-ming
Chairman

關注極樂寺骨灰龕行動組

Ms SIU Sau-ping
Member

反對政府縱容違規龕場行動組

Mr LAU Shiu-woon
Member

抗議食衛局推卸責任行動組

Mr Donald CHAN Sui-chuan
Member

要求立法規管私營骨灰龕行動組

Mr KONG Cheung-sau
Member

抗議極樂寺違規骨灰龕行動組

Mr WONG Kwok-ho
Member

Alliance against to Chung Woo Ching Sai's
Columbarium in Ma Wo

Ms Eulis LIU
Convenor

大埔反對政府縱容違規龕場大聯盟

Ms YU Wai-kuen
Member

反對大埔忠和精舍骨灰龕大聯盟

Ms CHUNG Yuk-ching
Member

大埔抗議政府有法不執大聯盟

Mr LEUNG Hung-fai
Member

關注公營骨灰龕供應大聯盟

Ms CHANG Ling-ying
Member

立法規管骨灰龕政策倡議組

Mr CHAN Wing-cheong
Member

立即取締違規龕場大聯盟

Ms YIP Po-kam
Member

抗議食衛局推卸責任大聯盟

Miss LEUNG Hoi-ting
Member

骨灰龕公營主導政策倡議組

Mr Patrick YAU
Member

關注公營骨灰龕規劃大聯盟

Ms NG Suet-fong
Member

Lo Wai Columbarium Concern Group

Ms CHUNG Yuk-ying
Member

道風山環境關注組

Ms HO FU Chuen-ha
Member

沙田區反對放生違規龕場連線

Ms SIN MA Kit-ching
Member

沙田區要求立法規管骨灰龕政策連線

Ms TAI NG Siu-yim
Member

青山村反對骨灰龕關注組

Mr Alan CHUNG
Member

上禾輦村民

Mr S K KWAN
Resident

明月山索償大聯盟

Ms Kitty FUNG
Member

要求即規即管即立法骨灰龕大聯盟

Miss Elza WONG
Member

Clerk in attendance : Ms Alice LEUNG
Chief Council Secretary (2) 2

Staff in attendance : Mr Jove CHAN
Senior Council Secretary (2) 2

Miss Emma CHEUNG
Legislative Assistant (2) 2

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I. Issues relating to regulation of private columbaria and supply of public niches
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)277/13-14(01) and (02))

Briefing by the Administration

At the invitation of the Chairman, Secretary for Food and Health ("SFH") briefed members on the Administration's paper, which set out the latest position on the supply of public niches, the enforcement actions against unauthorized private columbaria and consumer education, and the progress made by the Administration in drafting the Private Columbaria Bill ("the Bill") (including the result of the business impact assessment ("BIA") study) (LC Paper No. CB(2)277/13-14(01)).

2. Members also noted the background brief entitled "Proposed licensing scheme for private columbaria and supply of public niches" (LC Paper No. CB(2)277/13-14(02)) prepared by the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat.

Views of deputations/individuals

3. At the invitation of the Chairman, the following 31 deputations and six individuals presented their views on the subject at the meeting -

- (a) Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong
- (b) The Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong
(LC Paper No. CB(2)300/13-14(01))
- (c) Mr CHENG Cho-kwong, Sha Tin District Council Member
- (d) New People's Party
(LC Paper No. CB(2)300/13-14(02))
- (e) Mr Ken CHOW, Yuen Long District Council Member
- (f) Hung Hom Women's Association
(LC Paper No. CB(2)300/13-14(03))

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- (g) Hung Hom Resident Service Organization
(LC Paper No. CB(2)300/13-14(04))
- (h) Yat Tung Community Network Association
(LC Paper No. CB(2)300/13-14(05))
- (i) Designing Hong Kong
(LC Paper No. CB(2)300/13-14(06))
- (j) Alliance for the Concern Over Columbarium Policy
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))
- (k) Mr Pius YUM Kwok-tung, Kowloon City District Council Member
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))
- (l) Mr TSE Shing-kong
(LC Paper No. CB(2)300/13-14(07))
- (m) Ms HO Hang-mui, Tuen Mun District Council Member
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))
- (n) The Corporated Owners' of Parkland Villas
(LC Paper No. CB(2)300/13-14(08))
- (o) 關注極樂寺骨灰龕行動組
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))
- (p) 反對政府縱容違規龕場行動組
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))
- (q) 抗議食衛局推卸責任行動組
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))
- (r) 要求立法規管私營骨灰龕行動組
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))
- (s) 抗議極樂寺違規骨灰龕行動組
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))
- (t) Alliance against to Chung Woo Ching Sai's Columbarium in Ma Wo
(LC Paper No. CB(2)300/13-14(09))
- (u) 大埔反對政府縱容違規龕場大聯盟
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))

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- (v) 反對大埔忠和精舍骨灰龕大聯盟
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))
- (w) 大埔抗議政府有法不執大聯盟
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))
- (x) 關注公營骨灰龕供應大聯盟
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))
- (y) 立法規管骨灰龕政策倡議組
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))
- (z) 立即取締違規龕場大聯盟
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))
- (aa) 抗議食衛局推卸責任大聯盟
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))
- (bb) 骨灰龕公營主導政策倡議組
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))
- (cc) 關注公營骨灰龕規劃大聯盟
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))
- (dd) Lo Wai Columbarium Concern Group
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))
- (ee) 道風山環境關注組
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))
- (ff) 沙田區反對放生違規龕場連線
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))
- (gg) 沙田區要求立法規管骨灰龕政策連線
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))
- (hh) 骨灰龕政策連線
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))
- (ii) 青山村反對骨灰龕關注組
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))
- (jj) Mr SK KWAN 上禾輦村民
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))

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(kk) 明月山索償大聯盟
(LC Paper No. CB(2)300/13-14(10))

(ll) 要求即規即管即立法骨灰龕大聯盟
(LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01))

4. A summary of the views of deputations is in the **Appendix**.

(Post-meeting note: Members noted vide LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01) issued on 3 December 2013 that 抗議政府有法不執行動組、大埔要求立法規管私營骨灰龕大聯盟、反對放生違規龕場大聯盟、望東灣骨灰龕公營主導政策倡議組、紅磡區殮葬商及違規骨灰龕關注組 and 信義宗神學院 were also the co-signers of the joint submission, which was provided to the Panel after the meeting.)

5. Members also noted two written submissions from the Civic Party and 紅磡區殮葬商及違規骨灰龕關注組.

The Administration's response to the views of deputations

6. At the invitation of the Chairman, SFH made the following points in response to the deputations' views -

- (a) the proposed Bill could provide a legal basis for the implementation of a licensing scheme for private columbaria and for the Government to take law enforcement actions with sufficient deterrent effect against those non-compliant private columbaria;
- (b) under the licensing regime, operators could not sell their niches until they had obtained a licence. Licences would only be issued to the private columbaria which had duly met the licensing requirements. Those unauthorized private columbaria which could not meet the licensing requirements would be prohibited from continuing their operations;
- (c) for those private columbaria which could not fully meet the licensing requirements at the time when the licensing scheme came into operation and did not pose obvious or imminent danger in terms of building and fire safety, they might apply for temporary suspension of liability so that the existing operators could continue maintaining the operation of their columbaria while working to secure full compliance with the licensing

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requirements within a reasonable period of time. That said, those columbaria which could not regularize their breaches within the timeframe would be prohibited from continuing their operations; and

- (d) the Administration was mindful that careful and sensitive handling of the regulation of private columbaria was required in order not to cause displacement of a large number of interred niches upon commencement of the Bill. The Administration was planning to provide temporary storage for the interred niches. There was on-going publicity and public education advising customers intending to purchase niches from private columbaria to exercise caution before the enactment of the Bill.

Discussion

Legislative timetable of the Bill

7. Mr WONG Kwok-hing, Mr WONG Yuk-man, Mr Tommy CHEUNG and Miss Alice MAK shared similar concern about the Administration's delay in introducing the Bill. Mr WONG Kwok-hing and Mr WONG Yuk-man expressed similar view that the Government had already procrastinated for too long in introducing the Bill to regulate private columbaria. Expressing strong dissatisfaction with the Administration's deferral of the introduction of the Bill, Mr Tommy CHEUNG doubted whether the Administration would introduce it into LegCo in early second quarter of 2014, and not just before the summer recess of LegCo. Miss Alice MAK urged the Administration to speed up the legislative process of the Bill as any further deferral of the introduction of the Bill would worsen the problem of unauthorized private columbaria. Mr WONG Yuk-man requested the Administration to clearly indicate when the Bill would be introduced into LegCo.

8. SFH stressed that the Administration did not have any intention to delay the introduction of the Bill. According to the plan of the previous term of the Government, the Bill was intended to be introduced into LegCo by December 2013. However, having regard to the complexity of the issues involved in the regulation of private columbaria and with an aim to enhancing the drafting of the provisions of the Bill, the current term of the Government expected that more time was required for the drafting work on the Bill. SFH assured members that the Bill would be introduced to LegCo in the second quarter of 2014.

The proposed licensing scheme for private columbaria

9. Mr WONG Yuk-man expressed support in principle for the Bill which

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aimed to introduce a licensing scheme to regulate private columbaria. Mr Michael TIEN said that the New People's Party was in support of the proposed regulatory scheme for private columbaria in the Bill. He also considered that the pre-existing unauthorized private columbaria should be given opportunities to regularize their breaches under the planning and land regimes within a specific timeframe (say, two-years) to meet the licensing requirements and continue their operation in future.

10. Dr Kenneth CHAN said that the public was discontented with the Administration's paper. They were worried that the problem of unauthorized private columbaria would be taken lightly by the Administration and it would continue to procrastinate in taking enforcement actions by providing a long transitional period for unauthorized private columbaria to meet the licensing requirements. Echoing Dr CHAN's view, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen pointed out that at present, various government departments would take enforcement actions against unauthorized aspects of private columbaria under their respective mandate and relevant legislations. He considered that this would greatly affect the effectiveness of the enforcement actions taken against the unauthorized private columbaria. The Administration had not put forward any proposal to address the problem.

11. Mr CHAN Han-pan and Miss Alice MAK expressed concern about a recent case of a private columbarium development in an industrial building. Mr CHAN considered that the Administration should assign a department to provide assistance to those operators of private columbaria in applying for approvals from various relevant departments. Miss MAK enquired about the actions that the Administration would take in the event that the private columbarium concerned could not meet all of the licensing requirements in future after the Town Planning Board ("TPB") had approved the relevant re-zoning application.

12. SFH advised that while relevant departments currently took enforcement actions against unauthorized aspects of private columbaria under their respective mandate and relevant legislation and administrative measures, the operation of the licensing scheme for private columbaria would be overseen by the Food and Health Bureau after the enactment of the Bill. He further said that specific regulatory measures would be detailed in the Bill. He hoped that members would support the passage of the Bill to allow the Government to take enforcement actions more effectively.

13. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan said that many residents in Hung Hom were gravely concerned about the proposed exemption for undertakers from the licensing scheme under the Bill. She asked whether the Administration would consult the relevant District Councils ("DCs") and the residents concerned before finalizing such proposed exemption.

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14. SFH explained that undertakers were presently regulated under the Undertakers of Burials Regulation (Cap. 132CB). They were required to obtain an undertaker's licence from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and enforcement actions would be taken against any non-compliance when complaints on nuisances caused by the undertakers were received. For new applications for undertakers' licences received since December 2008, a restriction on storage of ashes had been imposed on such licences as one of the licensing conditions. SFH further advised that under the proposed regulatory scheme, the undertakers could be exempted subject to application and conditions, including restricting the undertakers' services to temporary storage of ashes within their premises in the course of providing burial service, and a cap on the number of individual sets of ashes permitted.

15. In the light of the deputations' grave concerns about the proposed regulatory measures, Miss Alice MAK considered that more public engagement was required before the introduction of the Bill. SFH responded that the Administration had conducted two rounds of public consultation on the proposed licensing scheme for private columbaria. A Bills Committee would likely be formed to scrutinize the Bill when it was introduced into LegCo and he believed that the Bills Committee would invite public views on the Bill.

16. In response to Mr Tommy CHEUNG's enquiry about storage of ashes at home, SFH advised that the Bill did not apply to the storage of ashes below a certain number of individual sets of ashes at any one time, in a dwelling used for domestic purposes.

BIA study

17. In response to the Chairman's enquiry about the BIA study, the Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) ("PSFH(F)") said that it was necessary to ensure that the regulatory scheme was reasonable with its details formulated properly, while striking a balance between the interests of the public, consumers and the trade. In this connection, the Administration had engaged a consultant to conduct a BIA study. The study sought to gain a better understanding of the situation, examine the possible implications of the proposed regulatory scheme on the trade and society, review whether changes should be made to the proposals having regard to the existing trade practices, and get prepared for possible consequences. The consultant had conducted interviews with a cross-section of stakeholders from the local columbarium industry, covering those known to the Government (on Part A and Part B of the list of information on private columbaria ("the List") published by the Development Bureau ("DEVB")) and those not identified in the List.

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18. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen noted that some deputations had expressed strong objection to the "outcome-based approach" counter-proposed by the BIA consultant to replace the originally proposed maintenance fund of 15% of the sales proceeds from niches. He enquired about the details of the "outcome-based approach". SFH explained that it was an alternative suggestion put forward by the consultant. Under this approach, the operators of private columbaria were required to devise their management plans, including the submission of certified maintenance reports and fire safety certificates, to ensure a sustainable mode of operation in the long-run. SFH stressed that the Administration had not yet made any decision on whether the "outcome-based approach" would be adopted to replace the maintenance fund as proposed in the second-round consultation.

19. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che queried why the Administration had to conduct a BIA study and wondered whether it would be used by the Government as an excuse to allow the unauthorized private columbaria to continue their operations. In his view, the Administration should conduct an assessment on the impact of the operation of private columbaria on the public. SFH responded that the Administration had already sought the public views through two rounds of public consultation. SFH and PSFH(F) stressed that the recommendations made by BIA consultants were only one of the considerations, and not the only consideration, that the Administration would take into account in the course of finalising the legislative proposals. The Administration would strive for a balance between the concerns raised by the trade, the interest of consumers and the well-being of society as a whole.

Admin

20. Mr Tommy CHEUNG said that he supported the conduct of a BIA study by the Administration but wondered why the study had not been conducted earlier. He requested the Administration to provide written information on the timing when BIA was commissioned and would be completed.

Admin

21. Dr Kenneth CHAN expressed deep concern that the BIA consultant had revealed that, apart from the columbaria on the List published by DEVB, an unknown number of small-scale columbaria had been in operation outside the Government's knowledge. The Chairman also expressed similar concern. The Chairman and Dr CHAN requested the Administration to provide the BIA study report ("the Report") to the Panel once available.

22. PSFH(F) explained that the Administration had informed the Panel of its plan for the BIA study at its meeting on 11 December 2010 as set out in its discussion paper. Prior to the BIA study, the Administration had conducted two public consultation exercises to gauge public views on the proposed licensing scheme for private columbaria. The results of the two exercises had

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provided a framework with specific recommendations for the consultant to conduct the BIA study. The drafting of the Report was underway and it was expected to be completed before the introduction of the Bill into LegCo.

Regulation of the pre-existing private columbaria

23. Pointing out that the number of private columbaria on Part B of the List issued by DEVB had increased from 50 in 2010 to 96 in 2013, Dr Kenneth CHAN said that the proliferation of newly-emerged unauthorized private columbaria and the large number of undertakers in Hung Hom had caused great nuisances to the neighbouring residents. Dr Priscilla LEUNG also expressed similar concern about the environmental and psychological nuisances caused by unauthorized private columbaria in Hung Hom to the residents in the vicinity.

24. Expressing grave concern about the recent overwhelming advertisements of the unauthorized private columbaria, Dr Priscilla LEUNG was worried that the rush of operators of these unauthorized columbaria selling off their niches before the enactment of the Bill would eventually cause huge financial loss to consumers. She hoped that the Administration would strengthen public education to enhance public's understanding of the proposed regulatory scheme for private columbaria and advise them to refrain from buying niches from non-compliant columbaria. She also suggested the Administration to consider setting the commencement date of the public consultation on the licensing scheme for private columbaria as a cut-off date so that licences would not be issued to those private columbaria which had started their operations after the cut-off date. Mr WU Chi-wai raised similar view and asked about the Administration's measures to protect consumers' interests in this respect.

25. SFH responded that the Administration was also concerned about the situation. The Administration and the Consumer Council had stepped up the public education to remind members of the public to exercise care when purchasing niches from private columbaria in order to protect their own interests. He reiterated that the passage of the Bill would allow the Administration to take enforcement actions with justifiable grounds against those unauthorized private columbaria.

26. Mr WU Chi-wai enquired about the details of how to assess whether an unauthorized private columbarium could meet the licensing requirements after regularization. He hoped that the Administration would publicize a list of the unauthorized private columbaria which would fail to meet the licensing requirements through regularization.

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27. SFH responded that while details of the requirements for the regularization of existing unauthorized private columbaria had yet to be drawn up, it was very likely that those located in multi-storey buildings in urban areas and posed obvious hazard or imminent danger in terms of building and fire safety would not satisfy the licensing requirements prescribed by the future licensing authority. However, he did not consider it appropriate for the Administration to publicize a list of such columbaria.

28. Miss Alice MAK expressed dissatisfaction with the handling of the non-compliant cases of private columbaria by the Lands Department ("LandsD"), Buildings Department ("BD") and Planning Department ("PlanD") as there were cases where they took about six-month time to carry out inspections at those non-compliant columbaria after issuing warning letters to them. She urged the Administration to step up the enforcement against non-compliant columbaria. The Deputy Chairman echoed Miss MAK's view and enquired how the Administration would strengthen enforcement efforts in tackling the problem of unauthorized private columbaria.

29. The Assistant Director of Planning / Special Duties of PlanD advised that the Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131) empowered the Planning Authority (i.e. the Director of Planning) to take enforcement actions against unauthorized developments in areas in the rural New Territories which had been covered by Development Permission Areas Plans only and actions had been taken on unauthorized columbarium use. The Assistant Director/Existing Buildings (2) of BD added that BD would require immediate removal of the reported unauthorized building works that constituted obvious hazard or imminent danger to life or property in accordance with BD's existing enforcement policy.

30. The Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, Dr Kenneth CHAN and Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che expressed concerns about the case of Ting Yuen (The Shrine) raised by many deputations attending the meeting. The Deputy Chairman was worried that there might be many similar cases like Ting Yuen (The Shrine) after the enactment of the Bill. Mr CHEUNG asked how the Administration would assist the affected consumers in recovering their losses from the operator of Ting Yuen (The Shrine).

31. SFH said that non-compliant cases constituting obvious hazard or imminent danger to life or property would be given priority in enforcement action. As regards the case of Ting Yuen (The Shrine), it was an individual case and he had to understand the details of the case from the relevant departments concerned. He stressed that the relevant departments had to act in accordance with law. SFH added that having regard to, among others, the wider community interest and the sentiment of the descendants, he would like

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to take the opportunity to appeal to operators of private columbaria to start regularizing their non-compliances in order to meet the future licensing requirements should they be interested in applying for a licence to continue their operation when the Bill came into effect.

Handling of interred niches

32. Dr Priscilla LEUNG, Mr Michael TIEN, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Mr CHAN Han-pan and Miss Alice MAK were concerned about the handling of interred niches deposited in unauthorized private columbaria which would not be able to meet the licensing requirements when the licensing scheme came into operation. Miss MAK cautioned the Administration that some members of the public might have the false expectation that the Administration would handle interred ashes of their deceased family members deposited in the unauthorized private columbaria in the event that these columbaria ceased operation.

33. Mr Michael TIEN expressed support for the proposed transitional arrangement where the Administration would provide temporary storage for the interred niches. However, he was concerned whether such temporary storage would be sufficient when the Administration took enforcement actions against all the unauthorized private columbaria after the transitional period and issued enforcement notices to the operators concerned, requiring them to discontinue the relevant unauthorized developments. He said that the Administration might solicit support from residents in the vicinity of the sites identified suitable for the development of temporary storage for the interred niches if it would guarantee that these sites would be used for other purposes after a specified period of time.

34. SFH responded that he hoped members would appreciate that it was inappropriate for the Administration to announce any transitional arrangement and the details of relevant facilities at the present stage in order to avoid making consumers less alert to the risks to which they were exposed. However, he added that paying tribute to the deceased would not be allowed in the temporary storage facilities.

The proposed new measures to increase the supply of niches

35. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen noted from the Administration's paper that the Administration was exploring some new measures to address the problem of the supply of niches, including designating different worship periods for different blocks of niches, limiting access during one or both of the grave sweeping seasons and time-limited occupation of new niches. In his view, the public might be very reluctant to accept these new initiatives in a short period of time. He suggested the Administration to conduct a pilot trial of

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these measures at the selected blocks of niches in new public columbaria. Mr WONG Kwok-hing urged the Administration to further consult the Panel before the implementation of any pilot scheme for the proposed measures.

36. Mr CHAN Han-pan expressed concern about the proposed time-limited occupation of new niches and the affordability of the underprivileged if they were required to pay for the management fee for niches of their deceased family members. While objecting to this proposed measure, Mr Tommy CHEUNG and Mr WU Chi-wai expressed support for the proposed measure of limiting access to public niches during one or both of the grave sweeping seasons. Mr WU hoped that the Administration would provide the Panel with a paper on the proposed measures in detail for in-depth discussion as early as practicable.

37. SFH explained that the proposed measure of limiting access to niches during one or both of the grave sweeping seasons would help reduce both vehicular and pedestrian flows during the grave-sweeping seasons, and bring the traffic impacts to within an acceptable level, thereby allowing more niches to be built in new columbarium developments. He stressed that the proposed new measures as mentioned in the Administration's paper would not be implemented at the existing public columbaria. The Administration's initial thinking was to pilot the new measures at the new public columbarium developments. The Panel would be consulted before implementing any pilot scheme.

38. As regards the proposed time-limited occupation of new niches, SFH pointed out that under the prevailing exhumation policy, coffin burials in all public cemeteries were subject to exhumation in a fixed period of years, at the end of which the remains of the deceased would have to be exhumed for re-interment. Having said that, this proposed measure might not be very effective in increasing the supply of public niches as the number of re-used niches was small. He believed that this proposed time-limited occupation of new niches and the proposed management fee would need time to gain acceptance in society.

Supply of public niches

39. Members were concerned about the supply of public niches and held similar view that the Administration should substantially increase the supply. Regarding the 24 potential sites that the Administration had identified across the 18 districts for columbarium development, members noted that the Administration had enlisted support from the relevant DCs for only three sites. The Chairman, Mr WONG Yuk-man and Mr CHAN Han-pan expressed concern whether the Administration could solicit support from all DCs to provide new public columbarium facilities in all the 18 districts.

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Noting that Tuen Mun DC was supportive of the proposed columbarium development in Tsang Tsui subject to road widening works, the Chairman enquired whether the Administration would consider setting up an incentive mechanism for reward and punishment, so as to obtain support from DCs for developing columbarium facilities.

40. SFH explained that the rationale behind the district-based columbarium development scheme was that all districts should collectively share the responsibility for columbarium development. Therefore, a reward and punishment system was considered not necessary. He added that the Administration was considering the request of Tuen Mun DC on road widening works for improving the traffic network in the area.

41. The Chairman, Mr WU Chi-wai, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan and Mr Michael TIEN made suggestions on lands suitable for columbarium development. The Chairman considered that the Administration should consider developing columbarium facilities in rock caverns. While expressing similar view with the Chairman, Mr WU said that Sunny Bay, with convenient transportation networks, was also suitable for columbarium development. Dr CHIANG concurred with Mr WU's suggestion and said that the Administration should also consider other remote areas for columbarium development. Mr TIEN suggested that the Administration should consider developing columbarium facilities on outlying islands and requesting the operators concerned to provide ferry service.

42. SFH welcomed members' suggestions and said that regarding the suggestions of developing columbarium facilities in Sunny Bay and on outlying islands, the Administration had to consider factors such as the traffic impact and engineering feasibility study.

43. Regarding the potential site located in Shek Mun, Shatin, the Deputy Chairman said that he had received complaints from residents in the vicinity objecting to the columbarium development in the area because of the anticipated traffic congestion, environmental nuisances and noise problem. He noted that there was another potential site in Fu Shan, Shatin, and enquired about the reason for not replacing Shek Mun with Fu Shan. SFH explained that traffic impact was the major consideration in the Fu Shan columbarium extension project as that narrow section of the existing road could not cope with busy traffic during the peak seasons in grave sweeping.

Conclusion

44. In concluding the discussion, the Chairman requested the Administration to provide written response to the enquiries raised by deputations on -

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- (a) whether the Administration would require all columbaria to comply with the users restrictions in land leases and the statutory town planning requirements before the new ordinance came into operation;
- (b) whether the Administration would consider the suggestion of shortening the proposed 18-month transitional period;
- (c) whether and when the Administration would make public the BIA study report; and if so, whether it would contain information on the number of operators of private columbaria (including those not identified on the List published by DEVB) and the number of niches they provided (with a breakdown of the numbers of niches sold and unsold);
- (d) what were the criteria adopted by the consultant in dividing the operators of private columbaria into three categories, namely large, medium and small- sized operators in the BIA study;
- (e) whether LandsD would take law enforcement action against the unauthorized occupation of Government land for columbarium use by the Gig Lok Monastery; and
- (f) whether TPB would consider adopting measures to tackle the delaying tactics of applicants.

II. Prevention and control of avian influenza

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)277/13-14(03) and (04))

45. SFH briefed members on the prevention and control of avian influenza ("AI"), details of which were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)277/13-14(03)).

46. Members also noted the background brief entitled "Avian influenza prevention measures" (LC Paper No. CB(2)277/13-14(04)) prepared by LegCo Secretariat.

Recent H7N9 AI outbreak in the Mainland

47. Mr Tommy CHEUNG was concerned about the level of risk on human-to-human transmission of H7N9 AI virus and enquired whether there were any reported cases of human-to-human transmission of this virus. SFH advised that on 31 March 2013, the National Health and Family Planning

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Commission of the Mainland notified the World Health Organization ("WHO") of the first three cases of human infection with H7N9. According to the latest risk assessment published by WHO in October 2013, most cases of H7N9 AI human infection had reported contact with live poultry or exposure to live bird markets. While there were some suspected cluster cases reported, almost all reported cases in the Mainland had occurred sporadically, without obvious epidemiological links. SFH stressed that although occasional human-to-human transmission in the clusters could not be ruled out, it was important to identify whether there was evidence indicating sustained human-to-human transmission. With regard to the four small family cluster cases among the 138 human infection cases reported in the Mainland, evidence did not support sustained human-to-human transmission of H7N9 AI virus.

Vaccine against AI virus

48. Mr Tommy CHEUNG and the Deputy Chairman raised similar concern about the development and the use of up-to-date AI vaccines in local chicken farms. The Deputy Chairman enquired about the effectiveness of the new Re-6 H5N1 AI vaccine ("Re-6 vaccine") to deal with future variants of AI virus.

49. SFH advised that the Re-6 vaccine was the latest available vaccine against H5N1 AI with high efficacy in immune response. Since November 2012, the Re-6 vaccine had been introduced for use in local chicken farms. Assistant Director (Inspection and Quarantine) of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AD(IQ)/AFCD") added that the new Re-6 vaccine was developed by a National Veterinary Research Institute in the Mainland to target the prevailing clade 2.3.2.1 of AI virus which was commonly found in AI positive dead wild birds in Hong Kong. It was considered as one of the most effective vaccines against H5N1 AI virus in this region.

50. In response to Mr Vincent FANG's enquiry, SFH said that at present, there was no AI vaccine suitable for the general human population. Seasonal influenza vaccine could not prevent AI, but it could help reduce the chance of complications and hospitalization from seasonal influenza. Recently, some Mainland experts had begun a study on the clades of H7N9 AI virus in the Mainland. The findings of the study could help direct further studies and could be used for the production of vaccine after successful clinical trials and assessment by the experts.

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Preventive and control measures against AI

51. The Deputy Chairman was concerned whether the preventive and control measures of AI that had been put in place by the Administration in relation to live poultry were comparable to international practices. He also sought information on the rapid test (i.e. PCR test) for influenza A virus, covering both H5 and H7 viruses, for poultry imported from the Mainland.

52. SFH responded that the AI control measures adopted by the Administration were already among the most stringent around the world. Comprehensive surveillance and monitoring had been put in place at all levels of live poultry supply chain (including farms, the wholesale poultry market, retail outlets and the import level). The Administration had been maintaining close liaison with the relevant Mainland authorities and had been jointly monitoring the risk of AI. AD(IQ)/AFCD supplemented that all live poultry destined for export from the Mainland to Hong Kong were required to be put under quarantine for five days and to pass blood tests to show a sufficient level of antibodies against H5 prior to leaving the farms. They must be accompanied by an official animal health certificate to confirm that the poultry had been tested negative for AI virus and were free from clinical signs of diseases and had been inspected by official veterinarians prior to export. At Man Kam To Animal Inspection Station, the Centre for Food Safety ("CFS") would collect swabs from all consignments of imported Mainland poultry for PCR test for influenza A virus to confirm that they were not carrying H5 and H7 viruses. For chickens supplied from local poultry farms, they must also pass the PCR and serological tests before delivery to the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market ("the Wholesale Poultry Market").

53. The Chairman said that according to some media reports, some registered chicken farms in Dongguan were found to have failed to observe the biosecurity requirements. They did not install bird-proof facilities and their hygienic condition was poor. She raised concern whether the registered chicken farms in the Mainland were required to implement the biosecurity measures similar to those applied to local chicken farms. In her view, the Administration should inspect those registered farms concerned to ensure that they had met the biosecurity requirements.

54. Assistant Director (Food Surveillance and Control)/CFS ("AD(FSC)/CFS") advised that the registered chicken farms in the Mainland were required to meet the requirements as set out in the inspection and quarantine measures for live poultry exported to Hong Kong and Macao issued by the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine ("AQSIQ"). She said that both AQSIQ's inspection and quarantine measures and the relevant AI control measures adopted in Hong

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Kong were made with reference to the framework for AI control proposed by the World Organization for Animal Health ("OIE"). AD(FSC)/CFS further said that CFS officers conducted regular inspections to the registered poultry farms in the Mainland and they found that their management and compliance with the AI control requirements were so far satisfactory.

55. Notwithstanding the Administration's explanation, the Chairman remained concerned about the AI outbreak in the Mainland and urged the Administration to expeditiously carry out inspections to the registered chicken farms in the Mainland.

56. Dr Kenneth Chan sought information on the AI control measures for vehicles carrying live chickens. SFH and AD(IQ)/AFCD advised that only properly cleansed and disinfected plastic transport cages were used for carrying live chickens from local chicken farms to the Wholesale Poultry Market. After unloading the live chickens, all vehicles used for transporting chickens from local farms and plastic cages would be cleansed thoroughly with specialized cleansing facilities and disinfected before leaving the Wholesale Poultry Market. Poultry workers including those working on vehicles carrying poultry would also receive training on AI prevention through workshops conducted by the Centre for Health Protection.

57. The Chairman said that under the zonal approach policy the Administration would suspend the import of live poultry and poultry products from registered farms and processing plants in the Guangdong Province within a certain zone surrounding the index farm where a highly pathogenic AI ("HPAI") outbreak had occurred in the Province. She enquired whether the Administration would adopt the same suspension arrangement if there were outbreaks of human illness associated with AI in the Mainland.

58. SFH explained that the zonal approach policy had been developed with reference to the guidelines on the control of HPAI issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 2006 and OIE in 2007. Under the policy, the import of live poultry and poultry products from the "import control zone" (i.e. the area of 13 km radius from the possible place of infection) would be prohibited for 21 days if there was a confirmed case of HPAI infection within Guangdong Province. Given H7N9 AI was a low pathogenic AI, OIE had not set any guidelines on the control of H7N9 AI. However, in view of the recent H7N9 AI outbreak in the Mainland, the Administration had agreed with the Mainland authorities to make a special arrangement that import of live poultry and/or poultry products would be suspended from registered farms/processing plants within a radius of 13km from an infected farm/live bird market in case of any confirmed H7N9 poultry case.

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(Members agreed to extend the meeting by 5 minutes.)

59. In response to the Chairman's further enquiry about the application of the zonal approach policy where a confirmed human case of H7N9 AI infection had occurred, SFH explained that the zonal approach policy was a mutual agreement between the Administration and the Mainland authorities on the import protocol for live poultry and poultry products in cases of HPAI outbreaks. As such, consent of the Mainland authorities should be sought if changes were to be made to the coverage of the zonal approach policy

Other issue discussed

60. Noting the high number of deaths caused by Middle East Respiratory Syndrome globally in recent months, Mr Vincent FANG enquired about the measures taken by the Administration to prevent the spread of the disease in Hong Kong. SFH responded that Middle East Respiratory Syndrome was caused by a coronavirus, which emerged in April 2012 and the number of confirmed cases had reached 157. The Administration was highly concerned about the outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome as evidences had indicated possible human-to-human transmission of the disease and its source and route of transmission had not yet been identified. Given the confirmed cases mainly involved people from the Middle East or people falling ill after returning to their home countries after visiting the Middle East, announcement had been broadcasted on flights from the Middle East to Hong Kong advising travellers returning from the Middle East with respiratory symptoms to seek medical attention and revealed their travel history to doctors. In light of the recent Islamic pilgrimage period, the Administration had stepped up education and publicity among the relevant religious and ethnic groups to enhance their awareness of the disease.

III. Any other business

61. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:02 pm.

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

**Special meeting on Tuesday, 19 November 2013
on Issues relating to regulation of private columbaria and supply of public niches**

Summary of views and concerns expressed by deputations/ individuals

Organization/ Individual	Major views and concerns
Supply of public niches	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 大埔反對政府縱容違規龕場大聯盟• Designing Hong Kong• Hung Hom Women's Association• Hung Hom Resident Service Organization• The Corporated Owners' of Parkland Villas• Yat Tung Community Network Association• Mr Ken CHOW, Yuen Long District Council Member• Ms HO Hang-mui, Tuen Mun District Council Member• Mr TSE Shing-kong	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The deputations held the view that the Administration should substantially increase the supply of public niches and should be the major provider in columbarium facilities. Some deputations/individuals suggested the Administration to consider developing columbarium facilities in remote countryside, caverns, land used as burial grounds or on outlying islands.2. Pointing out that there were already a large number of funeral facilities and private columbaria operating in Hung Hom district, some deputations expressed objection to any proposed new public columbarium development in the district.3. Some deputations considered that the design of public columbarium facilities should be improved to provide better ventilation of such facilities and to avoid niches and other symbolic signs from being seen from the outside, thus eliminating nuisances caused to the residents in the neighbourhood. There was also a view that the Administration should enhance the community facilities for residents in the districts where there would be new public columbarium development.

Organization/ Individual	Major views and concerns
	<p>4. Some deputations considered that to enhance the transparency of the provision of public niches, the Administration should provide and update regularly a timetable of the provision of public niches supply. It was also suggested that the Administration should engage the public in the discussion on public columbarium facilities development.</p> <p>5. Some deputations urged the Administration to improve the development of public columbarium facilities as well as the infrastructural works relating to the projects.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong 	<p>1. The deputation expressed concern about the nuisances and traffic problems that might be caused to residents in the vicinity of the proposed new public columbarium developments.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms HO Hang-mui, Tuen Mun District Council Member 	<p>1. The deputation urged the Administration to improve the traffic network near the columbarium development in Tsang Tsui and increase the number of public niches to be provided therein.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yat Tung Community Network Association 	<p>1. The deputation expressed grave concern that no columbarium facilities development had been planned in the Hung Shui Kiu new development area.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr CHENG Cho-kwong, Shatin District Council Member 	<p>1. The deputation held a different view from the Administration with regard to the policy on the provision of public niches in all 18 districts in Hong Kong and raised objection to the proposed development of public columbarium in Shek Mun, Shatin.</p>

Organization/ Individual	Major views and concerns
New measures to increase the supply of niches	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong • Hung Hom Women's Association 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The deputations expressed objection to the proposed measure of time-limited occupation of new niches and the proposal for charging management fees for niches.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The deputation suggested the Administration to consider land use issues, such as relaxing the zoning requirements and increasing the number of storeys of columbaria as these measures would be more effective in increasing the number of niches. 2. The deputation did not support the proposed measure of limiting access during grave sweeping seasons and time-limited occupation of new niches.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr TSE Shing-kong 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In his view, the Administration should enhance its efforts in public education on attitudes towards green funeral and burial which would help to address the problem of insufficient supply of public niches.
Introduction of the Private Columbarium Bill ("the Bill")	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 要求即規即管即立法骨灰龕大聯盟 • Hung Hom Women's Association • Hung Hom Resident Service Organization • Mr Pius YUM Kwok-tung, Kowloon City District Council Member 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The deputations supported the legislative proposals with a view that the non-compliant private columbaria could be prohibited from continuing their operations. 2. Some deputations were dissatisfied with the deferral of the introduction of the Bill as the pre-existing unauthorized private columbarium would have time to sell off their niches. 3. Some deputations considered that the Bill should also cover the provision

Organization/ Individual	Major views and concerns
	of niches in private premises which provided long-term deposition of niches on rental basis.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 關注公營骨灰龕供應大聯盟 • Alliance for the Concern Over Columbarium Policy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The deputations considered that all private columbaria who wished to continue their business after the enactment of the Bill should comply with the user restrictions in land leases and the statutory town planning requirements. 2. The deputations expressed objection to the proposed temporary suspension of liability for pre-existing private columbaria and in their view, the Administration should not provide the transitional period. Even if a transitional period would be provided, the proposed 18-month period should be shortened.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hung Hom Resident Service Organization 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The deputation expressed no objection to the proposal to provide a transitional period for the non-compliant private columbaria to rectify their breaches.
Business impact assessment ("BIA") study	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 要求即規即管即立法骨灰龕大聯盟 • Alliance for the Concern Over Columbarium Policy • Yat Tung Community Network Association • Mr Ken CHOW, Yuen Long District Council Member • Mr S K KWAN • Mr TSE Shing-kong 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The deputations expressed concern that BIA study would provide opportunities for unauthorized private columbaria to legalize their operations. 2. Some deputations expressed worries that the results of the public consultation exercises conducted for the regulation of private columbaria would be overridden by the results of BIA study commissioned by the Administration. They were dissatisfied that the views of the residents in the neighbourhood of columbarium facilities had not been taken

Organization/ Individual	Major views and concerns
	seriously.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alliance for the Concern Over Columbarium Policy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The deputation expressed concern about whether the BIA study report would provide the information on the number of operators of private columbaria, including those not identified on the List published by the Development Bureau on its website, the number of niches they provided (both sold and unsold). It considered that the study report should be made known to the public. 2. The deputation expressed queries on criteria that the consultant adopted to categorize operators of private columbaria into large, medium and small- sized operators in BIA study.
Handling of interred niches	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 關注極樂寺骨灰龕行動組 • The Corporated Owners' of Parkland Villas • Yat Tung Community Network Association 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some deputations held the view that the Administration should provide temporary storage for interred niches when an unauthorized private columbarium was prohibited from operation so as not to cause any inconvenience and distress to family members of the deceased. 2. Some deputations expressed concern about the proposed five-year licence period and were worried that it might lead to displacement of interred niches if the private columbaria concerned could not renew their licences.
Composition of the proposed Licensing Board	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Ken CHOW, Yuen Long District Council Member 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In his view, there should be representatives from the concern groups about the regulation of private columbaria in the proposed Licensing Board.

Organization/ Individual	Major views and concerns
Regulation of the pre-existing private columbaria	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 大埔抗議政府有法不執大聯盟 • 抗議極樂寺違規骨灰龕行動組 • 要求即規即管即立法骨灰龕大聯盟 • 明月山索償大聯盟 • 關注極樂寺骨灰龕行動組 • Alliance against to Chung Woo Ching Sai's Columbarium in Ma Wo • Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong • Mr Pius YUM Kwok-tung, Kowloon City District Council Member • Mr Ken CHOW, Yuen Long District Council Member 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some deputations expressed dissatisfaction with the Administration's enforcement actions against unauthorized private columbaria and the penalties did not carry sufficient deterrent effect. 2. Some deputations and individuals held the view that the Administration should immediately freeze the sale of new niches in unauthorized private columbaria to protect consumer interests. 3. There was suggestion that the Administration should deploy a special team to take enforcement actions against the non-compliance of pre-existing unauthorized private columbarium which rushed to sell off their niches before the enactment of the Bill.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Corporated Owners' of Parkland Villas • Lo Wai Columbarium Concern Group • Yat Tung Community Network Association • Mr S K KWAN 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The deputations did not support the issuance of licences to existing unauthorized private columbaria to allow them to continue their operations after the enactment of the Bill. 2. There was a view that long-existing columbaria should be defined as those which had been operated openly to the public for more than 30 years. 3. There was also a view that columbarium facilities should not be near residential areas and should not bring adverse impact on the traffic network in the areas concerned. Unauthorized building works ("UBWs") in columbaria should be strictly prohibited.

Organization/ Individual	Major views and concerns
Cases of non-compliant private columbaria	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 反對大埔忠和精舍骨灰龕大聯盟 • 抗議極樂寺違規骨灰龕行動組 • 沙田區反對放生違規龕場連線 • 沙田區要求立法規管骨灰龕政策連線 • 道風山環境關注組 • Alliance for the Concern Over Columbarium Policy • Alliance against to Chung Woo Ching Sai's Columbarium in Ma Wo • Lo Wai Columbarium Concern Group 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expressing serious concerns about the non-compliance of various individual private columbaria, the deputations urged the Administration to take more stringent enforcement actions. 2. Some deputations pointed out that some monasteries had been taken over by private firms in recent years and had substantially expanded their operations of columbarium facilities for profit-making purpose.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 大埔反對政府縱容違規龕場大聯盟 • 反對大埔忠和精舍骨灰龕大聯盟 • 關注公營骨灰龕供應大聯盟 • Alliance against to Chung Woo Ching Sai's Columbarium in Ma Wo • Alliance for the Concern Over Columbarium Policy • Lo Wai Columbarium Concern Group • Mr Pius YUM Kwok-tung, Kowloon City District Council Member • Mr S K KWAN 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The deputations urged the Town Planning Board to introduce measures to tackle the problem where some operators of unauthorized private columbaria made repetitive re-submissions of re-zoning applications as a tactic to delay the enforcement actions taken by the Administration against their non-compliance. 2. There was a view that the Administration should review the Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131) to step up its regulation of unauthorized use of land for columbarium development by unauthorized private columbaria. 3. There was also a view that private columbaria should be required to have all of their UBWs removed when making applications for re-zoning of land uses.

<u>Name of Organization</u>	<u>Submission (LC Paper No.)</u>
The Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong	LC Paper No. CB(2)300/13-14(01)
New People's Party	LC Paper No. CB(2)300/13-14(02)
Hung Hom Women's Association	LC Paper No. CB(2)300/13-14(03)
Hung Hom Resident Service Organization	LC Paper No. CB(2)300/13-14(04)
Yat Tung Community Network Association	LC Paper No. CB(2)300/13-14(05)
Designing Hong Kong	LC Paper No. CB(2)300/13-14(06)
Mr TSE Shing-kong	LC Paper No. CB(2)300/13-14(07)
The Corporated Owners' of Parkland Villas	LC Paper No. CB(2)300/13-14(08)
Alliance against to Chung Woo Ching Sai's Columbarium in Ma Wo	LC Paper No. CB(2)300/13-14(09)
明月山索償大聯盟	LC Paper No. CB(2)300/13-14(10)
Alliance for the Concern Over Columbarium Policy	LC Paper No. CB(2)424/13-14(01)
Alliance against to Chung Woo Ching Sai's Columbarium in Ma Wo	ditto
The Corporated Owners' of Parkland Villas	ditto
Gik Lok Temple Columbarium Action Group	ditto
Lo Wai Columbarium Concern Group	ditto
大埔反對政府縱容違規龕場大聯盟	ditto
大埔抗議政府有法不執大聯盟	ditto
反對大埔忠和精舍骨灰龕大聯盟	ditto
反對政府縱容違規龕場行動組	ditto
立即取締違規龕場大聯盟	ditto
立法規管骨灰龕政策倡議組	ditto
抗議食衛局推卸責任大聯盟	ditto
抗議食衛局推卸責任行動組	ditto
抗議極樂寺違規骨灰龕行動組	ditto
沙田區反對放生違規龕場連線	ditto
沙田區要求立法規管骨灰龕政策連線	ditto

明月山索償大聯盟	ditto
青山村反對骨灰龕關注組	ditto
要求立法規管私營骨灰龕行動組	ditto
要求即規即管即立法骨灰龕大聯盟	ditto
骨灰龕公營主導政策倡議組	ditto
骨灰龕政策連線	ditto
道風山環境關注組	ditto
關注公營骨灰龕供應大聯盟	ditto
關注公營骨灰龕規劃大聯盟	ditto
Ms HO Hang-mui, Tuen Mun District Council Member	ditto
Mr SK KWAN 上禾輦村民	ditto
Mr TSE Shing-kong	ditto
Mr Pius YUM Kwok-tung, Kowloon City District Council Member	ditto

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
7 March 2014