



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

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17 May 2016

The Honourable Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP  
Chairman, Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
[Fax: 2854 2444]

Dear Chairman,

**LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
Follow-up to Meeting on 12 April 2016**

**Provision of columbarium at Wo Hop Shek Cemetery – Phase 1**

When the captioned subject was discussed at the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene (the Panel) on 12 April 2016, Members enquired about (a) the progress of the public columbarium development projects under the district-based columbarium development scheme; and (b) whether the Government had plans to review the existing niche allocation mechanism and if so, the relevant details. I write to provide the information sought by Members.

## Public supply of niches

2. Under the district-based columbarium development scheme, a total of 24 potential sites have been identified in the 18 districts for columbarium development. Between the second quarter of 2011 and the first quarter of 2016, we have consulted the relevant District Councils (DCs) on the projects at eight sites, and all DCs indicated support or no-objection to the projects.<sup>1</sup> These eight projects, which would provide more than 450 000 new niches in total, account for more than half of the total number of new niches available in all the 24 projects.

3. The developments at the Diamond Hill Columbarium (about 1 540 new niches) and Cheung Chau Cemetery (about 1 000 new niches) were completed in 2012 and 2013 respectively.

4. In July last year, we obtained funding approval from the Legislative Council for the Tsang Tsui project, which will provide about 160 000 new niches by 2019. In March 2016, funding allocation was approved for the provision of 855 niches at the site at Wong Nai Chung Road (Wan Chai) by 2018. In respect of the project at the surplus coffin burial grounds and other land within the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery (Phase 1), it was discussed at the Panel in April 2016, and will be presented to the Public Works Subcommittee in May 2016. Subject to the funding approval from the Finance Committee before the summer, the project could provide about 44 000 new niches by 2019.

5. On 29 March 2016, we obtained the support from the Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries and Environmental Hygiene Committee of the Islands DC on the provision of an additional 1 250 niches at the Cheung Chau Cemetery extension. On 12 May 2016, we obtained the support from the Health and Environment Committee of the Sha Tin DC on the provision of about 40 000 niches at the site at Shek Mun.<sup>2</sup> Our current target is to consult the relevant District Councils on another five sites within the next few years.

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<sup>1</sup> The eight sites are at Diamond Hill (Wong Tai Sin), Cheung Chau (Islands), Tsang Tsui (Tuen Mun), Tsing Tsuen Road (Kwai Tsing), Wo Hop Shek (Phase 1) (North), Sandy Ridge (North), Chai Wan (Eastern) and Wong Nai Chung Road (Wan Chai).

<sup>2</sup> On the site at Fu Shan Columbarium extension in Sha Tin, due to traffic constraints, the potential to develop a columbarium and the number of niches that could be provided at this site was lower than those at the Shek Mun site. As such, the Government has decided to use the site for the reprovisioning of the Fu Shan Public Mortuary, while the site at Shek Mun would continue to be reserved for the purpose of columbarium development. We explained this latest position to the Health and Environment Committee of the Sha Tin DC on 10 March 2016.

They include the following –

<b>District</b>	<b>Potential Site</b>
Tai Po	(11) A site at the southwestern corner of the Shuen Wan Ex-Landfill, near Tai Po Industrial Estate
Islands	(12) Lai Chi Yuen extension at Mui Wo
Tsuen Wan	(13) A site at the eastern end of Sham Shui Kok Drive, Siu Ho Wan, North Lantau
Tsuen Wan	(14) A site at the western end of Sham Shui Kok Drive, Siu Ho Wan, North Lantau
Yuen Long	(15) A site between San Tam Road and Mai Po Lung Road, San Tin

6. Apart from the projects named in paragraphs 2 to 5 above, we will draw up the time line for taking forward the remaining projects in due course. They include the following –

<b>District</b>	<b>Potential Site</b>
North	(5b) Surplus coffin burial grounds and other land within the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery, namely (i) Phase 2 development and (ii) Phase 3 development
Kwai Tsing	(16) A site at the Ex-Kwai Chung Incineration Plant at Kwai Yu Street
Kwai Tsing	(17) A site on Kwai Tai Road, southeast of Ex-Kwai Chung Incineration Plant
Sham Shui Po	(18) A site north of Ching Cheung Road near the Roman Catholic Cemetery
Central and Western	(19) A site at Mount Davis Road, east of Chiu Yuen Cemetery
Southern	(20) A site adjoining the Chinese Christian Cemetery at Pok Fu Lam
Sai Kung	(21) A site at Area 132, Tseung Kwan O, near the Tseung Kwan O Chinese Permanent Cemetery
Kowloon City	(22) A vacant staff quarter (part thereof) inside a funeral parlour at 6 Cheong Hang Road, Hung Hom
Yau Tsim Mong	(23) Former school within Tin Hau Temple on Temple Street
Kwun Tong	(24) A site next to the Ex-Ma Yau Tong Central Landfill Site

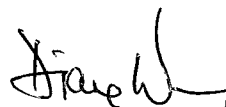
7. In determining which project(s) should be taken forward ahead of others, we have taken into consideration circumstantial factors including known site constraints, funding availability and likely complexity of the works, etc.

### **Allocation mechanism**

8. According to the existing practice of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), new public niches are allocated through computer balloting. The relevant allocation mechanism has taken on board the recommendation of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), and is in line with the principles of fairness and transparency.

9. Notwithstanding the above, FEHD will review the existing mechanism for allocating new niches after the completion of the last round of new niche allocation at the Wo Hop Shek Kiu Tau Road Columbarium Phase V. The allocation of the next sizeable lot of niches is expected to take place in 2019. The review will be completed before then. When conducting the review, FEHD will take into account the views of bureaux and departments, ICAC and relevant stakeholders, with a view to formulating a mechanism that is fair, just, efficient and in the public interest.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Diane WONG)  
for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c.: All Members of Legislative Council

Clerk to Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
(Attn: Ms Josephine SO)

Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene  
(Attn: Mr CHIU Yu-chow)

Director of Architectural Services  
(Attn: Mr Tony LEE)