



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

[English Translation]

23 May 2019

Miss Josephine SO
Clerk to Panel on Food and Environmental Hygiene
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Miss SO,

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Provision of columbarium, Garden of Remembrance and related works
at On Hing Lane, Shek Mun, Sha Tin

Regarding the follow-up on the captioned subject at the Panel meeting held on 16 April 2019, our response is set out as follows.

To cope with the pedestrian flow upon the completion of Shek Mun Columbarium, a new subway connecting On Muk Street and the columbarium facilities will be constructed for use by grave sweepers. Pedestrian safety will be ensured through the segregation of pedestrians and vehicles. The proposed subway will ease the pedestrian flow to and from the columbarium, particularly during the Ching Ming and Chung Yeung festive periods.

According to the relevant Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA), the additional traffic and pedestrian volume arising from visitors to the columbarium during the Ching Ming and Chung Yeung festive periods should be manageable with the modification of the existing On Hing Lane and the construction of the said subway.

Currently the vicinity of the columbarium site is accessible by different modes of public transport, and hence the TIA estimated that most members of the public would arrive at a location nearby (such as the MTR Shek Mun Station) by public transport, and then walk to the columbarium. Against this background, it was concluded that railway and other public transport services, together with the special traffic and transport arrangements, should be adequate to cope with the flow of visitors to and from the columbarium during grave sweeping periods.

Nevertheless, when the operation of the columbarium commences, relevant government departments would agree on the special traffic arrangements to be made with a view to ensuring smooth traffic in the area. To tie in with the crowd management and traffic control measures implemented by the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police), the Transport Department (TD) will encourage people to use public transport services whenever possible for journeys to different districts, such as making use of the MTR Shek Mun Station nearby, in order to speed up the flow of people. If necessary, TD will also consider enhancing other modes of public transport provided in the area during the peak grave sweeping periods. As for the suggestion of special shuttle bus services raised by some Panel Members, while there is no such plan for the time being, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will closely monitor the actual situation and will raise this suggestion with relevant departments as and when necessary. Moreover, the Police and TD will deal with unexpected situations under established interdepartmental response group and coordination mechanism.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

(Gilford LAW)

for Secretary for Food and Health

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