

**For discussion
on 13 July 2020**

**Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Progress on Provision of Facilities for the Handling of Abortuses**

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the progress of provision of facilities for the handling of abortuses¹ by the Government.

Background

2. The Chief Executive has announced in the 2018 Policy Address that the Government will examine proposals to improve the handling of abortus in a holistic manner, including provision of facilities for keeping and cremating abortuses.

Progress on provision of facilities for keeping abortuses

3. The first Government facility for keeping abortuses has commissioned in April 2019 at Wo Hop Shek Cemetery in Fanling under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”). The facility is named as “Garden of Forever Love” (see pictures at **Annex 1**) which symbolises the everlasting care and love of parents, the community and the Government. In a scenic and serene setting, the Garden provides a total of 300 keeping spaces, with a stand for offering flowers, a board for placing best wishes cards and a wall for mounting commemorative plaques, for members of the public to apply for use for free.

4. To cater for the need of keeping abortuses, FEHD will also provide more similar facilities at other public columbaria. Among those, 400 keeping spaces will be provided at Cape Collinson in Chai Wan (see location plan at **Annex 2**), while facilities for keeping abortuses and/or scattering the cremated ashes of abortuses will be provided in the

¹ Abortuses refer to babies of less than 24 weeks’ gestation with no signs of life.

columbarium works projects at Shek Mun, Sha Tin and Sandy Ridge, North District² which are pending to be considered by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council (“LegCo”), thereby increasing the number of keeping spaces for abortuses to about 1 300.

5. Apart from the public facilities for keeping abortuses mentioned above, we also encourage and are grateful to the support of private cemetery operators. Four private cemeteries, namely the Tsuen Wan Chinese Permanent Cemetery, the Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Cape Collinson, the Tao Fong Shan Christian Cemetery and the Muslim Cemetery in Happy Valley, have already been providing services of keeping abortuses. On the other hand, the application of the Hong Kong Buddhist Cemetery in Cape Collinson for providing services of keeping abortuses has been approved, and the services will commence as soon as the relevant works are completed. Information on various public and private facilities for keeping abortuses is set out in **Annex 3**.

Progress on provision of cremation facilities for abortuses

6. The Government is actively setting up a dedicated cremation facility for abortuses³. FEHD has identified a site near the Kwai Chung Crematorium (location plan at **Annex 4**) for establishing cremation and associated facilities for abortuses. To be redeveloped from a currently vacant warehouse, the cremation facilities will have an area of about 90 square metres housing two sets of small installations for cremation and ancillary facilities (including a multi-purpose room which can be used for holding memorial activities, a reception area, a storeroom and a fire service installation room). A garden where parents may scatter the cremated ashes of abortuses and four electronic kiosks for memorial activities of parents will also be set up next to the cremation facilities.

² At the meeting on 16 April 2019, the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene raised no objection to the proposed submission of funding request to the Public Works Subcommittee (“PWSC”) for works projects 24NB (Provision of columbarium, Garden of Remembrance and related works at On Hing Lane, Shek Mun, Sha Tin) and 28NB (Provision of columbarium and Garden of Remembrance at Sandy Ridge Cemetery (Phase 1 Development)). The projects were approved by the LegCo PWSC on 13 November 2019, and are pending to be considered by the LegCo Finance Committee.

³ Apart from being available for application by parents of abortuses, the cremation facility will also handle unclaimed abortuses, which will be an improvement to the current arrangement of disposing abortuses as clinical waste.

7. On 12 September 2019, FEHD consulted the Kwai Tsing District Council on the above-mentioned cremation facilities for abortuses and received its support. Since then, FEHD and the Architectural Services Department have undertaken follow-up procedures including application for funding, procurement of cremation equipment, commissioning a consultancy firm through tender to prepare a detailed design and commencing construction work. If the project goes smoothly, it is expected that works will commence in October 2020 and be completed by the end of 2021. We will actively follow up on the implementation of the project to enable the cremation facilities for abortuses to be coming into service as soon as possible.

Advice sought

8. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

Food and Health Bureau
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
July 2020

Garden of Forever Love at Wo Hop Shek Cementary, Fanling



**Location plan of facilities for keeping abortuses
at the columbarium at Cape Collinson in Chai Wan**



**Information on facilities for keeping abortuses
(as at 31 May 2020)**

Location	Commissioning Time	Capacity	No. of abortuses covered by applications received	Occupancy rate
A. Public facilities⁴				
Garden of Forever Love, Wo Hop Shek Cementary, Fanling under FEHD	April 2019	300	117	39.0%
Cape Collinson Columbarium, Chai Wan under FEHD	End-2020	400	N.A.	N.A.
B. Private facilities				
Angel Garden, The Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery, Chai Wan	June 2017	500	53	10.6%
“寧馨園”, Tsuen Wan Chinese Permanent Cemetery	January 2019	219	135	61.6%
Garden of Angels, Tao Fong Shan Christian Cemetery	May 2019	144	15	10.4%
“Flowers of Paradise”, Muslim Cemetery in Happy Valley	June 2020	100 - 120	N.A.	N.A.
“小小淨土”, Hong Kong Buddhist Cemetery	To be confirmed (approved in October 2019)	108	N.A.	N.A.

⁴ Public facilities under planning also include the columbarium works projects at Shek Mun, Sha Tin and Sandy Ridge, North District which are pending consideration by the LegCo Finance Committee.

Location Plan of Kwai Chung Crematorium

