## 立法會 Legislative Council

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## Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

## Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat for the meeting on 13 July 2020

## Facilities for the handling of abortuses

As announced in the Chief Executive's 2018 Policy Address, the Administration understands the worries and anxieties of parents who may encounter difficulties in arranging proper burial or cremation of their abortuses. In this connection, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") and the Hospital Authority have implemented various administrative measures to facilitate the handling of abortuses.

- The subject of provision of facilities for the handling of abortuses has not been discussed by the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene ("the Panel"). That said, when members discussed two proposed public works projects pertinent to columbarium development at the meeting of 16 April 2019, there were suggestions that (a) cremation facilities for abortuses of less than 24 weeks' gestation should be provided in the two proposed columbaria under consideration; and (b) the Administration should put in place additional measures for handling abortuses, including setting aside space for burial of abortuses. According to the Administration's response made at the above meeting, although the current public demand for the burial and scattering of cremains of abortuses of less than 24 weeks' gestation could be met by FEHD's and private cemeteries' existing facilities, FEHD would consider members' suggestions and continue to review whether and how the workflow and procedures for handling abortuses could be improved.
- 3. According to further information provided by the Administration in October 2019 and January 2020, the Administration has commissioned its first facility for keeping abortuses, named "Garden of Forever Love", at Wo Hop Shek in Fanling since April 2019. In addition, it is planning to provide similar facilities (totalling about 1 300 keeping spaces) in Cape Collinson in

Eastern District, Shek Mun in Sha Tin District and Sandy Ridge in North District. A dedicated cremation facility for abortuses will also be provided at a site near the Kwai Chung Crematorium<sup>1</sup>. On the front of facilities provided by private cemeteries, the Tsuen Wan Chinese Permanent Cemetery, the Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Cape Collinson and the Tao Fong Shan Christian Cemetery have provided services of keeping abortuses. Furthermore, FEHD is processing applications for provision of similar services from the Hong Kong Buddhist Cemetery in Cape Collinson and the Muslim Cemetery in Happy Valley.

4. The Administration will brief the Panel on the progress of providing facilities for the handling of abortuses at the meeting on 13 July 2020.

Council Business Division 2
<u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u>
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Besides the cremation facility, other facilities include a garden for scattering the cremated ashes of abortuses, a room for holding memorial activities and electronic kiosks.