



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]

18 March 2019

Ms Josephine SO
Clerk to Subcommittee on Public Health and Municipal Services (Fees)
(Amendment) Regulation 2019
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms SO,

**Public Health and Municipal Services (Fees)
(Amendment) Regulation 2019**

**List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion
at the meeting on 8 March 2019**

Thank you for your letter of 11 March 2019. Our response to your enquiries is set out below.

(a) Progress of the district-based columbarium development scheme

The progress of the sites identified under the district-based columbarium development scheme is at **Annex**.

(b) Impact of the extendable arrangement on operators of non-Government cemeteries

The management of private cemeteries falls under the purview of their operators, and hence arrangements such as the allocation of niches as well as niche terms are decided by the operators concerned. The Food and

Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is the regulatory authority of private cemeteries under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) and the Private Cemeteries Regulation (Cap. 132BF), but the extendable arrangement as introduced under the Amendment Regulation is only applicable to public niches provided by FEHD, but not those provided by private cemeteries.

In response to the Subcommittee's enquiry, we have checked with the major operators of private cemeteries in Hong Kong. Their niche term arrangements are as follows:

Private cemetery operator	Niche term arrangement
The Board of Management of the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries	Under the current arrangement, niches can be used permanently after allocation.
The Hong Kong Chinese Christian Churches Union	For niches newly allocated from 2017, the initial interment period is 20 years and can be extended at 10-year intervals; the extendable arrangement would not affect those niches allocated before.
Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong (Diocese)	The Diocese is introducing extendable arrangement; the extendable arrangement would not affect allocated niches.
The Hong Kong Buddhist Association (HKBA)	Under the current arrangement, niches can be used permanently after allocation; HKBA is considering the introduction of extendable arrangement in the future.

(c) FEHD's first public niche allocation exercise under the extendable arrangement

FEHD's first allocation exercise of public niches under the extendable arrangement will include niches in Tuen Mun Tsang Tsui

Columbarium and Wan Chai Wong Nai Chung Road Columbarium. If the Amendment Regulation comes into operation on 26 April 2019, FEHD plans to commence the relevant publicity for allocation of public niches in May 2019, and to accept advance applications from the public for some 20,000 niches (Phase I)¹ in Tuen Mun Tsang Tsui Columbarium and all 855 niches in Wan Chai Wong Nai Chung Road Columbarium.

(d) Computerized measures to facilitate the application for extension of deposit period and updating contact details

Upon obtaining consent from the niche allocatees (and the nominated representatives) and their email addresses, FEHD will set up a dedicated Internet Memorial Service webpage for the deceased (dedicated webpage) free of charge. In the front page of the dedicated webpage, the expiry date of the ash deposit period will be displayed, and a link for related persons to update the contact list or their contact information will be provided. FEHD is also actively exploring to add a link to facilitate application for extension.

Furthermore, FEHD will remind related persons to update their contact information every five years by Short Message Services (SMS) and email etc. Two years prior to the expiry of the deposit period and until two years after the expiry date², FEHD will approach the related persons by SMS and email etc. to remind them of the expiry date of the deposit period every six months, and a pop-up message will also be displayed in the dedicated webpage.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

(Gilford LAW)

for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (Attn: Mr Chiu Yu-chow)

¹ Tuen Mun Tsang Tsui Columbarium, which is under construction, provides a total of 163 320 niches (and will be allocated in eight phases in response to the Tuen Mun District Council's concern on traffic impact), while the Wan Chai Wong Nai Chung Road Columbarium provides 855 niches. The construction works of the two projects are scheduled for completion in end 2019 and Q2 2019 respectively.

² Upon expiry of the deposit period, FEHD will step up efforts to contact the related persons, such as through issuing letters to their last known address, publishing notices in the Government Gazette, newspapers and FEHD website, and posting notices on relevant niche walls.

Sites for Developing Public Columbarium FacilitiesA. Projects with consultation with District Councils (DCs) completed

No.	District	Location	Approx. no. of niches [#]	Progress	Actual/target commission date
1	Wong Tai Sin	Diamond Hill Columbarium extension	1 540	Completed	2012
2	Islands	Cheung Chau Cemetery extension	1 000	Completed	2013
			1 250	Works will commence in Q2 2019 and be completed in 2020.	Phase 1 (670 no.): 2019 Phase 2 (580 no.): 2020
3	Wan Chai	Hong Kong Cemeteries and Crematoria Office (part) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department at Wong Nai Chung Road	855	Works commenced in March 2018 and will be completed in Q2 2019.	2019
4	Tuen Mun	Part of the Tsang Tsui ash lagoon next to Black Point Power Station	163 320	Works commenced in July 2016 and will be completed in Q4 2019.	2019
5(a)	North	Surplus coffin burial grounds and other land within the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery (Note 1)	44 000 (Phase 1)	Works commenced in December 2016 and will be completed in end 2019.	2019

All numbers of niches are figures supported by preliminary feasibility studies. The actual number of niches for each project depends on the outcome of traffic impact assessment (TIA) and technical assessments etc. After completing the relevant assessments and consulting relevant DCs, the Government will decide the final number of niches that will be developed in the columbarium facility.

No.	District	Location	Approx. no. of niches [#]	Progress	Actual/target commission date
6	Islands	Mui Wo Lai Chi Yuen Cemetery extension	790	Works are expected to commence in Q1 2019 and will be completed in Q3 2020.	2020
7	Eastern	A site on Cape Collinson Road opposite the Chai Wan Chinese Permanent Cemetery Columbarium and next to Wan Tsui Estate Park	25 000	Works commenced in November 2018 and will be completed in Q1 2022.	2022
8	Sha Tin	A site on On Hing Lane, Shek Mun, next to Shatin Transfer Station	40 000	Consulted DC and DC supported. Planned to consult the Legislative Council (LegCo) Food and Environmental Hygiene Panel (FSEH Panel) in April 2019 and submit funding application to LegCo Finance Committee (FC) later.	2023

No.	District	Location	Approx. no. of niches [#]	Progress	Actual/target commission date
9(a)	North	Undeveloped areas within the Sandy Ridge Cemetery (Note 2)	54 000 (Phase 1)	<p>Site formation and infrastructure works commenced in December 2017, and will be completed in mid-2021.</p> <p>Consulted DC and DC supported.</p> <p>Planned to consult LegCo FSEH Panel in April 2019 and submit funding application to LegCo FC later.</p>	2024
10	Kwai Ching	A site on Tsing Tsuen Road near the Tsuen Wan Chinese Permanent Cemetery	20 000	<p>Consulted DC and DC supported.</p> <p>Pending approval of the Outline Zoning Plan and completion of land grant procedure.</p> <p>Development to be undertaken by the Board of Management of the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries.</p>	2025

B. Projects pending consultation with DCs

No.	District	Location	Approx. no. of niches #	Progress	Target commission date
11	Kwai Ching	Site at the Ex-Kwai Chung Incineration Plant at Kwai Yue Street	68 500	Consulted DC on TIA in November 2016 and DC supported.	2025
12	Kwai Ching	Site on Kwai Tai Road, southeast of Ex-Kwai Chung Incineration Plant		Consultant is updating TIA. Planned to consult DC on TIA update and design in 2020/21.	
13	Tsuen Wan	Site located at the western end of Sham Shui Kok Drive, Siu Ho Wan, North Lantau (Note 3)	26 000	Consulted DC on TIA in November 2016 and DC supported.	To be confirmed
14	Tsuen Wan	Site located at the eastern end of Sham Shui Kok Drive, Siu Ho Wan, North Lantau (Note 3)		Consultant is conducting feasibility study update (including TIA update). Initially planned to consult DC in 2020.	
5(b)	North	Surplus coffin burial grounds and other land within the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery (Note 1)	35 000 (Phase 2) 25 000 (Phase 3)	Recruiting consultant for the study and design of road widening works relating to Phases 2 and 3 development. Initially planned to consult DC in 2020.	To be confirmed

No.	District	Location	Approx. no. of niches #	Progress	Target commission date
9(b)	North	Undeveloped areas within the Sandy Ridge Cemetery (Note 2)	146 000 (Phase 2)	Initially planned to consult DC in 2021.	To be confirmed
15	Yuen Long	Site between San Tam Road and Mai Po Lung Road, San Tin	140 000	Recruiting consultant to conduct feasibility studies update (including TIA update). Initially planned to consult DC in 2020.	To be confirmed
16	Tai Po	Site at the southwestern corner of the Shuen Wan Ex-Landfill, near Tai Po Industrial Estate	15 600	Consulted DC in May 2017 on TIA. Measures to be taken in response to views of locals under consideration.	To be confirmed
17	Kwun Tong	Site next to the Ex-Ma Yau Tong Central Landfill	36 900	Consultation with DC is being planned.	To be confirmed
18	Sai Kung	Site at Area 132, Tseung Kwan O, near the Tseung Kwan O Chinese Permanent Cemetery	29 000	Consultation with DC is being planned.	To be confirmed
19	Southern	Site adjoining the Chinese Christian Cemetery at Pok Fu Lam	5 100	Consultation with DC is being planned.	To be confirmed
20	Sham Shui Po	Site at north of Ching Cheung Road near Roman Catholic Cemetery	5 500	Consultation with DC is being planned.	To be confirmed

No.	District	Location	Approx. no. of niches #	Progress	Target commission date
21	Central/ Western	Site at Mount Davis Road, east of Chiu Yuen Cemetery	7 500	Consultation with DC is being planned.	To be confirmed
22	Yau Tsim Mong	Former school within Tin Hau Temple on Temple Street	540	Consultation with DC is being planned.	To be confirmed
23	Kowloon City	A vacant staff quarter (part thereof) inside a funeral parlour at 6 Cheong Hang Road, Hung Hom	800	Consultation with DC is being planned.	To be confirmed
24	Sha Tin	Fu Shan Columbarium Extension (Note 4)	Not applicable	Reported to FSEH Panel in May 2016 that the site would be used for reprovisioning of Fu Shan Public Mortuary.	Not applicable

Notes

Note 1 : The works project in surplus coffin burial grounds and other land within the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery will be conducted in three phases.

Note 2 : The works project in undeveloped areas within the Sandy Ridge Cemetery will be conducted in two phases.

Note 3* : The site located at the western end of Sham Shui Kok Drive, Siu Ho Wan, North Lantau has replaced the original two projects at the eastern and western ends of Sham Shui Kok Drive, Siu Ho Wan, North Lantau, but the total niche number remains unchanged. The project now seeks to develop 26 000 niches in the site at western end and a vacant lot nearby. The Planning Department consulted the Tsuen Wan and Islands DC on 30 January and 12 February 2018 respectively on the relevant Siu Ho Wan Outline Zoning Plan (OZP) and

obtained their support. The Chief Executive in Council had also approved the OZP (S/I-SHW/2).

Note 4*: The site of Fu Shan Columbarium Extension in Sha Tin district would be used for reprovisioning of the Fu Shan Public Mortuary. The Government informed the FSEH Panel on 17 May 2016 vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1531/15-16(01).

* Due to the latest development as explained in notes 3 and 4, two sites (i.e. the site located at the eastern end of Sham Shui Kok Drive, Siu Ho Wan, North Lantau and Fu Shan Columbarium Extension) which have been reserved for the provision of public columbarium facilities would be used for other purposes.