

Questions on the Proposed Public Columbarium Development
in Sham Shui Kok East and Sham Shui Kok West
(Paper IDC 28/2016)

Written Reply of the Food and Health Bureau

To cater for the growing demand of the public for columbaria, the Government has adopted a three-pronged approach, namely, increasing the supply of public niches, promoting green burial and regulating private columbaria. To increase the supply of public niches, the Government has been actively promoting the district-based columbarium development scheme, under which 24 sites in 18 districts were identified for further studies to confirm their potential for development into columbarium facilities. Sham Shui Kok East and Sham Shui Kok West in Tsuen Wan District were among the sites announced in 2010 and 2011.

Generally speaking, in pursuing a columbarium project at a new site, the Government has to conduct various preliminary studies and assessments on the proposed site, having regard to the scale of development, topography, supporting infrastructure, compatibility with adjacent land uses, traffic and environmental impacts, as well as the complexity and possible constraints of the project, in order to confirm that the site is technically feasible for development. The time required for these studies varies from site to site.

The engineering feasibility studies for the two projects at Sham Shui Kok East and Sham Shui Kok West, including the traffic impact assessments (TIAs), are nearing completion. While the two sites are located within Tsuen Wan District, they are geographically close to Tung Chung in Islands District. The Government plans to brief Tsuen Wan District Council on the results of TIAs for the two proposed columbarium projects at Sham Shui Kok East and Sham Shui Kok West in Tsuen Wan District this year. Apart from soliciting the views of Members of Tsuen Wan District Council, the relevant consultation paper will be circulated to Members of Islands District Council.

The Government will continue its rigorous efforts to increase the supply of public niches. It also hopes that the public can understand the construction of public columbarium cannot be completed overnight. We would like to appeal to the community for their understanding and support to facilitate the Government to implement the district-based columbarium projects expeditiously.

Mr WONG Wai-wan, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, will attend the meeting of the Islands District Council scheduled for 1 February.

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