

Comment on the Public Consultation on Review of Columbarium Policy

Section	Policy Areas	Comment/View
A	Increasing the supply of columbarium facilities to meet the overall public demand	
(1)	....do you agree that all districts should collectively share to meet the needs of the community?	Yes, agree
	.....what kinds of measures do you think can be adopted to lessen local resistance to the construction of columbarium facilities?	<p>Government should make use of industrial areas to construct new columbarium and take the lead in establishing the columbarium unit within the industrial building for the following reasons which could lessen local resistance to development of columbarium facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - some industrial areas are already located far away from the public; - infrastructure are already well planned to cope with the demand of the industrial areas; - transportation facilities are already well developed to cater the demand of industrial areas; - invisible to public as the columbarium unit is located inside the industrial building; & - fire fighting system is well established in some industrial building for controlling the fire risk .
(2)do you agree that existing cemeteries, which are already well supported by infrastructural and transport facilities, should be expanded or more columbarium facilities should be built therein to expedite the provision of such facilities?	Don't agree as it would overload the current infrastructure and transportation facilities.
(3)do you agree that the BMCPC and religious bodies	Same as item 2 above

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	should be encouraged to expand their existing columbarium facilities or develop such facilities in other places?	
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B	Encouraging the public to accept a more environmentally friendly and sustainable means for handling cremains	
(4)	....do you agree that the public should be encouraged to accept more environmentally friendly and sustainable means for handling cremains?	No, it is suggested to keep the traditional way for handling cremains as they are not hazardous. The public have rights to feel free to handle and treat them.
	....do you agree that the Government should step up the efforts to further promote these two ways of handling cremains?	ditto
	.....do you have any other suggestions on alternative means of handling cremains?	To keep the traditional way to keep and handle the cremains.
(5)	.....do you think that it is the best arrangement for the Government to continue this perpetual interment practice?	No, handling fee and management fee should be paid by the families using government facilities. The government should implement the policy "User-to-Pay". Therefore, the families would consider whether they still want to keep the cremains at their own place or government facilities.
	.....do you think that the suggestion is feasible	Yes, as same as item 5 above
(6)do you agree to the introduction of such incentive scheme by the Government?	Yes

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C	Enhancing consumer protection	
(7)	...do you have any suggestions on how to further strengthen consumer education?	<p>The government should recognise that the private columbarium is an alternative for the public to consider, once they are actually execute the purchasing deal/agreement, there is no need for government to interrupt too much on the free market policy in Hong Kong. However, in order to enhance the protection of the public, government could consider to publishing some guideline or code of practice regarding the agreement and business practice for compliance by the private columbarium.</p>

D	Enhancing regulation of private columbaria	
(8)	...do you think the proposed licensing scheme is appropriate for enhancing regulation of private columbaria?	<p>Yes, however, the licensing requirements should not be too stringent to comply as mentioned before private columbarium is an alternative facilities for the public to consider.</p> <p>The government should put the concern on the fire fighting system and other safety issues such as building safety etc rather than use of land and land planning issues.</p>
(9)	...how do you think the Government should deal with existing unauthorised private columbaria?	<p>Government should consider exempting the license requirement for the current private columbarium with only the compliance of fire fighting requirement.</p>