

## **Extract from HC Library Standard Note, “Reuse of Graves”, 2012 version**

The concluding section “*What does the present [Coalition] Government intend to do*” included the following ministerial exchanges:

### **Burial Law**

*Question: Asked by Lord Clement-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they have considered any reform of burial law in order to permit reuse of old graves for burial and to ease the financial burdens placed on local authorities in administering public cemeteries.[HL4645]

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally):** We are currently considering whether to permit the reuse of old graves as a solution to the shortage of burial space in some areas. We recognise that such arrangements could relieve local authorities from the costs of acquiring and developing new land for burials. Authorities in London are already permitted, under provisions within the [London Local Authorities Act 2007](#), to reuse old private graves.

[3 Dec 2010 : Column WA491](#)

### **Justice**

#### **Cemeteries**

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how his Department assesses demand for burial space in burial grounds. [117496]

**Mr Djanogly:** A survey of burial grounds conducted in 2005 concluded that there would be a median remaining lifetime of 30 years (i.e. until 2035) for existing burial grounds if current levels of demand continue. The issue of burial space is routinely discussed at bi-annual meetings of the [Burial and Cremation Advisory Group](#), which is chaired by the Ministry of Justice.

[17 July 2012 : Column 638W](#)

#### **Cemeteries**

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the need for further burial space and grounds (a) in London and (b) nationally. [116700]

**Mr Djanogly:** After careful consideration, I took the view last autumn that introducing a policy of reusing graves was not critical at this time. We have nevertheless committed to keeping the situation under review. In some circumstances section 74 of the **London Local Authorities Act 2007** allows for the reuse of graves in London.

[16 July 2012 : Column 544W](#)

*Although the Briefing Note is no longer available in its present form, the above links to Hansard remain valid.*

Updated 26 December at 14:29.