



Dr Matthew Offord MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

MoJ ref:

8 December 2016

Dear Matthew,

### NEW SOUTHGATE CEMETERY BILL: SECOND READING DEBATE

During the Second Reading debate on the New Southgate Cemetery Bill on 29 November 2016, I undertook to write in response to your question on whether private cemeteries are regulated and have obligations under the *Technical Guidance on the Reuse and Reclamation of Graves in London Local Authority Cemeteries* published by the London Environment Directors Network (LEDNet) in October 2013.

I should note at the outset that the LEDNet document is guidance, and is not mandatory; its purpose being to provide guidance on the application, methods and procedures of grave reuse and reclamation. The document only covers municipal cemeteries established under the Burial Acts managed by burial authorities in Greater London (subject to any specific enactments applying to individual cemeteries).

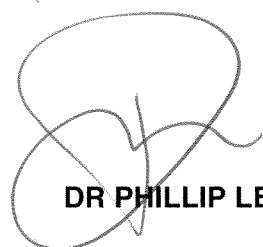
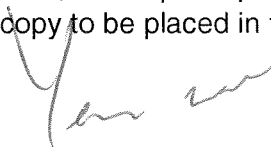
The LEDNet guidance does not therefore cover New Southgate Cemetery. If the Bill currently before Parliament is enacted, however, the Bill promoters have confirmed their intention to follow the LEDNet guidance.

General guidance is also available in the *Guide for Burial Ground Managers* published by the (then) Department for Constitutional Affairs in 2005.

In more general terms, New Southgate Cemetery is subject to a statutory framework of regulation including the Cemeteries Clauses Act 1847 and the statutes relating to its establishment. If the current Bill is enacted, the reuse and reclamation of graves within the Cemetery will, of course, be governed by its provisions.

In addition, the Cemetery's parent company, the Westerleigh Group, is a member of the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities and abides by its Code of Practice. The Westerleigh Group is also mindful of the service standards recommended by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management, of which a number of staff are members and undertake its external training programmes.

I am copying this letter to the Speaker, other participants in the Second Reading debate and the Bill promoters, and have arranged for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House.



**DR PHILLIP LEE MP**