

Leighton Andrews AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus
Minister for Public Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref LA -/00047/15

William Powell AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

20 January 2015

Dear William,

Thank you for your further letter on the petition your Committee has received calling on the Welsh Government to amend legislation relating to Local Authorities' cemeteries in respect of the personalisation of graves.

I remain sympathetic to the situation experienced by the petitioners and agree people who are bereaved should have clear and consistent rights to place appropriate tributes on graves provided, of course, these do not pose a health and safety risk or impede the maintenance of the cemetery.

However, following review, I have concluded the law governing the management of cemeteries is clear and does not need reform at this time. It is for each Local Authority to develop and justify their own approaches to their communities, just as with any other service.

I would expect all Local Authorities to be clear on what is and what is not allowed in their cemeteries, and to ensure this is communicated clearly. The rules and regulations should clearly set out the process for inspection of cemeteries for unpermitted items, including a reasonable period of notice, and the action which would be taken to remove them.

I intend to write to all Local Authorities about this particular issue, in order to convey this expectation and ask them to ensure they have clear rules and regulations for the management of their cemeteries in place which are kept up to date and enforced consistently. I will also be asking them to ensure they have an appropriate communication policy in place.

*Yours sincerely,
Leighton Andrews*

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