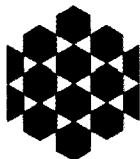


**From the office of the
Minister of the Environment**



Department of the
Environment

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Your reference:

Our reference: AQW 8165/09

Peer Powell

8 July 2009

I refer to your Assembly Question (AQW8165/09) about how many burial spaces are available in each council area and whether it was permissible to give preference to local residents and, if so, in what council areas this is happening.

As stated in the response provided on 17 June 2009 by my predecessor Sammy Wilson, my Department does not hold records relating to this matter. Minister Wilson undertook to contact councils and write to you when he received the information.

However, not all the councils have responded to the request. Details, showing the councils and the number of burial spaces available in each of these, is set out on the attached table.

In regard to which councils are giving preference to local residents I would confirm that under Section 178 of The Public Health (Ireland) Act 1878 councils have the powers to sell the rights of burial subject to such restrictions and conditions as they think proper, this power extends to giving preference to local residents. The only council in which this is happening is Newtownabbey Borough Council.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Assembly Library.

Yours sincerely

**EDWIN POOTS MLA
Minister of the Environment**

Council	Number of burial spaces available
Antrim Borough Council	2478
Ards Borough Council	3428
Armagh City & District Council	1008
Ballymena Borough Council	*
Ballymoney Borough Council	1648
Banbridge District Council	2200
Belfast City Council	1100
Carrickfergus Borough Council	36
Castlereagh Borough Council	0
Coleraine Borough Council	4081
Cookstown District Council	1050
Craigavon Borough Council	1700
Derry City Council	10000
Down District Council	734
Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council	2000
Fermanagh District Council	6120
Larne Borough Council	*
Limavady Borough Council	6000
Lisburn City Council	809
Magherafelt District Council	2886
Moyle District Council	No council cemeteries
Newry & Mourne District Council	7300
Newtownabbey Borough Council	3250
North Down Borough Council	1475
Omagh District Council	460
Strabane District Council	5055

*** These councils did not provide any information.**