
WEDNESDAY 16 JULY 2025

Private Business

The notice below contains information relating to Private Business. Private legislation is legislation of a special kind for conferring particular powers or benefits on specific individuals or organisations rather than the general population. Private business can be considered either in Committees or on the floor of the House.

For more information on private business please see the relevant section of Parliament's website: <http://www.parliament.uk/about/how/laws/bills/private/>

NOTICES DEPOSITED ON TUESDAY 15 JULY 2025

Ministerial Report under Standing Order 169A (Reports concerning human rights)

General Cemetery Bill [Lords]

Alex Davies-Jones, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice, made the following report to the Chairman of Ways and Means on 14 July 2025:

‘I consider that the Bill’s promoters have undertaken a full assessment of the compatibility of their proposals with the European Convention on Human Rights (the “Convention”) and I see no need to dispute their conclusions. I do, however, have two points to note.

Firstly, in their assessment of compatibility, the promoters do not express a view on whether the General Cemetery Company (the “Company”) is a “public authority” for the purposes of section 6(3)(b) of the Human Rights Act 1998 (the “1998 Act”). However, in my view, in considering the compatibility of the Bill with the Convention, it is appropriate to consider whether the Company will be subject to the duty in section 6(1) of the 1998 Act to act compatibly with the Convention rights. I consider that the Company will be exercising public functions within the meaning of the 1998 Act, and will therefore be subject to this duty when exercising the relevant functions. Nevertheless, as noted above, this does not affect my conclusion that the proposals are consistent with the Convention.

Secondly, the promoters’ assessment of compatibility considered whether any interference with the relevant Convention rights, which is necessary for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others in using the cemetery, is justifiable and proportionate. The promoters have taken into consideration in particular the safeguards contained in the Bill. ² I have, however, also considered whether there may be alternative means available of achieving the same aim, which would not involve interference with Convention rights. I am satisfied that other methods of developing burial space have already been implemented to the extent available. I therefore agree with the promoters’ assessment that the powers conferred by the Bill are both justified

and proportionate and I do not believe that the amendments to the Bill, made in the House of Lords, alter this assessment.'