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EL/ESS

ENV 11/90

5 October, 1990.

Re: Applications for exhumation licences

I am directed by the Minister for the Environment to refer to previous Circular Letters on the above-mentioned subject, and in particular to the recent circulars (ENV 3/89 of 8 February, 1989 and ENV 11/89 of 10 November 1989 and to offer the following additional points of guidance in the matter.

Multiple Applications

Applications occasionally arise involving the exhumation of a number of bodies in the same plot e.g. consequent on the moving of a religious community. In such cases a separate application is not necessary in respect of each body proposed to be exhumed. It will suffice in such cases if a single application form is completed, accompanied by a schedule setting out the names, dates of death and causes of death of the persons concerned, with death certificates as appropriate - see below.

Licences involving unknown remains

Where applications involve unknown remains or where there is reason to believe that unknown remains may be found and the intention is to remove any remains found in this way, the application for the exhumation licence should be expressed as relating to all human remains within a specified area. In such cases, the bodies known to have been interred in the area should be listed on a schedule and a statement on the situation regarding other remains or possible remains should be included with the application.

Death Certificate

It was indicated in Circular Letter ENV 3/89 of 8 February, 1989 that applications should be accompanied by death certificates in respect of the persons whose remains are to be exhumed. This should be a normal requirement but it should not be insisted upon where a death certificate would be inordinately difficult to obtain.

Enquiries etc.

Any enquiries relating to exhumation licences may be made either to Colm Keenan (extension 2089) or to Anne Clarke (extension 2548)

Mise, le meas,

Jack Killane,
Assistant Principal,
Environmental Services Section.

To each sanitary authority