

# Proposed exhumations

## Chancellor's guidelines

1. Once a body or ashes have been interred in consecrated ground, whether in a churchyard or in a consecrated section of a municipal cemetery, there should be no disturbance of the remains save for good and proper reason.
2. The petitioners must provide a case showing good and proper reason for the exhumation taking place, e.g.:-
  - a. A mistake by the applicant or by a third party such as the Incumbent, churchwarden, next of kin, an undertaker or some other person as to locality.
  - b. Medical reasons relating to the applicant.
  - c. Unsuitability of the site adopted for the grave.

Note that a change of mind on the part of the deceased's relatives, or that the spouse or another close relative of the deceased has subsequently been buried elsewhere, is unlikely to be a sufficient reason.

3. Factors likely to lead to an unsuccessful application are:-
  - a. Passage of a substantial period of time.
  - b. Public health factors and improper motives, e.g. serious unreasonableness or family feuds.
  - c. The applicant moving to a new area and wishing the remains to be moved to that area.
  - d. No intention to re-inter remains in consecrated ground.
  - e. If removal would be contrary to the intentions and wishes of the deceased.
  - f. Reasonable opposition from other family members, from the Incumbent, or from the PCC.
  - g. A risk of affecting the sensibilities of the congregation or the neighbourhood.