

Aberdeen City Council submission of 5 January 2023

PE1941/Z: Stop the destruction of headstones within community cemeteries

Where headstones have been inspected and made safe by lowering, Aberdeen City Council make every effort to trace and contact the lair holder to advise them of the situation and the options available to them. However, the majority of unstable headstones are very old and lairholder contact details are often not up to date.

Signs are displayed on cemetery gates advising of the headstone inspection programme with contact details for anyone with concerns or requiring assistance.

The Council's website has a Cemeteries and Burial Ground webpage where details of the Headstone Inspection Programme can be viewed and downloaded which also includes contact details for assistance. Any concerns received are considered and addressed usually by explaining what we are doing and the reasons why it is being done.

All staff undertaking headstone inspections require to undergo specific training in the inspection and making safe of memorial headstones. This training includes the importance of contacting lairholders and the distress that families encounter when seeing that their headstone has been made safe. Aberdeen City Council will continue with our efforts to inform lairholders and families when headstones are made safe and allay any concerns.