

**Councillor Dave Sheppard, Deputy Leader and  
Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion & Neighbourhood Working**

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*Email the Council for free @ your local library!*

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Direct Line:</b>	<b>Please Ask For</b>
DS/KS	01709 255948	Councillor Dave Sheppard

24<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Nida Khan

Dear Nida Khan

**Question to Council – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

Thank you for the question you submitted to Council on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025. I have set out the question, supplementary question and my responses below.

**As we have now come into the New Year and we are fast running out of Grave spaces what progress has Rotherham Borough Council made in resolving the situation?**

The latest information that we have from Dignity is that the remaining burial spaces available as of the 10 Jan 2025 (approximately) is:

57 lined graves which equates to 2.1 operational years available.  
21 earthen graves which equates to 3 operational years available.  
19 baby graves which equates to 1.2 operational years available.

The number of operational years available are calculated from the average number of burials for each type from 2023.

Where possible there are always two lined graves (top of vault exposed and temporary cover in place) and two earthen graves (pre dug and backfilled with loose soil) pre prepared for short notice burials

On the negotiations the Council has written to Dignity and is awaiting a response.. The Council will continue to monitor the space available and continue the dialogue through the quarterly meetings that we have to provide information and reassurance that sufficient space is available to meet the needs of all our communities.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Dave Sheppard  
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion & Neighbourhood Working