

Supporting Statement

Application for Certificate of Lawful Existing Use or Development (Section 191) Proposed Mortuary (Ghusl) Facility – Mansfield Hall, Northwood Hills Masjid & Community Centre (NHMCC)

1. Applicant and Site Context

This application is submitted by **Iron Aid Foundation (Charity No. 1134493)**, the registered charitable body responsible for the management of the **Northwood Hills Masjid & Community Centre (NHMCC)**, located at Mansfield Hall, Joel Street, Northwood Hills, HA6.

The NHMCC operates as a place of worship under **Use Class F1**, and serves the Muslim community of the surrounding area. The Mansfield Hall forms part of the same premises and has long been used as an ancillary space for religious gatherings, education, funeral prayers, and community support.

2. Description of Proposed Use

The proposal involves the internal installation of a **mortuary facility (Ghusl room)** for:

- The ritual washing (Ghusl) of deceased persons in accordance with Islamic practice,
- Short-term holding of the deceased prior to burial,
- Use only by or for the community served by the mosque.

The facility will be used on an occasional basis, as and when required. It will not be open to the public and will operate under the spiritual oversight of the Imam and trustees of the charity.

3. Nature of Development – No Operational Change

The proposed development **does not involve operational development** requiring planning permission. There are **no external alterations** to the building. Internal works consist of:

- Installation of equipment (washing table, drainage sluice, etc.),
- Minor plumbing work for water and waste connections,
- Installation of a CAT5 backflow prevention tank (standard hygiene requirement),
- Fitting of wipeable hygienic PVC wall cladding,
- An inline water heater for controlled water temperature.

All of these works are internal and minor, and fall within **permitted development or non-material alterations** under planning law.

4. Ancillary Use Justification

The use of a room within a mosque complex for mortuary purposes is **ancillary to the main lawful use as a place of worship** (Use Class F1). Islamic funerary rites, including the Ghusl, are a core religious obligation.

The space will be used:

- By appointment only,
- In conjunction with religious services (e.g. Janazah prayer),
- Exclusively for the benefit of the religious community already attending the mosque.

There is **no change of use** involved.

5. Summary

This application seeks a lawful development certificate confirming that the establishment of the Ghush/mortuary facility:

- Falls within the scope of the existing lawful use of the site,
- Does not involve development requiring express planning permission,
- Is a lawful, ancillary function of the mosque and consistent with similar religious facilities.

We respectfully request that the Local Planning Authority issue a **Certificate of Lawfulness under Section 191** of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.



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