

Deceased Management Advisory Group

Update 9th April 2020

1. MoJ update

MOJ and DMAG have started to work on a project regarding the financial resilience of the sector. This is in the very early stages and some thoughts have been drafted by DMAG for further discussion in the group. We are still waiting for clarity regarding the closure of burial grounds. MHCLG are looking at the regulations and will get back to us in due course. DMAG still waiting for the modelling figures from Government. MHCLG officials have been informed by some LRF's that there are areas of the UK where there has been irresponsible behaviour from families attending funeral services and large crowds are still gathering in some instances. Information has also been fed back that families are postponing burials/cremations with people hoping the lockdown will be over in a few weeks. Funeral directors must discourage this as it will cause problems further down the line! There is concern that Government will make use of Section 28 point ii when Government initiate powers to LA. DMAG have asked the MOJ representative if Government could stress the importance of arranging the funeral of a loved one as soon as feasibly possible and to focus on holding a memorial service sometime in the future.

2. DHSC update.

Representative from DHSC not available to update.

MOJ representative informed DMAG that they along with DWP are exploring other mechanisms of providing financial assistance in regards to funeral expenses.

3. NI Public Health Agency update.

We are waiting on the update from NI PHA for guidelines for funeral directors handling the deceased with Covid-19. As soon as this is made available we will share via the DMAG website.

4. LRF's

DMAG have been approached by Funeral Directors who are advising them that there is no uniformity within the LRF's with some LA representatives not acting collegiately. There are concerns regarding public tender and specific minimum standards. We have heard that in some instances temporary mortuaries are to be set up in refrigerated lorries and the removals from hospital will be by untrained staff! DMAG is here to ensure that the level of care given to the



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deceased and the bereaved families should not be compromised at this time and on behalf of the sector will write to LA's to ask them to not enforce Section 28 point ii until it is absolutely necessary or until Government advises them to do so!

5. DMAG Items for future meetings with Cabinet Office/Scottish Government PMART – why is this in play yet?

Temporary Mortuaries in Crematoria – who has made this decision?

6. AOB Round robin

It was noted that we have had no reply to the letter dated 3rd April to Duncan Selby Chief Executive PHE.

We will invite Jane Crossley, DHSC to our meeting on Tuesday.

We will invite a representative from DWP to our meeting on Wednesday

Webcasts: DMAG stress the importance that the live recording of the funeral service may still be continuing after the family have left the chapel and that funeral directors and crematoria staff must at all times act in a professional manner



FBCA
Federation of Burial
& Cremation Authorities



The Cremation Society