

Deceased Management

Advisory Group

Video Conference

3rd April 2020

Notes

Catch up from previous day

The draft letter follow-up letter relating to PPE was approved. Later approved to be uploaded to website.

Ian Kearns will represent Crematoria/Cemeteries sector on Scottish Government Additional Deaths Oversight Group.

Closure of Cemeteries

MoJ reported that it was felt the lack of clarity over cemeteries being closed was a drafting error. DMAG felt the guidance needed to be clearer.

It was noted that Wales & Northern Ireland have closed cemeteries. Legislation does not cover this. MoJ to explore and feedback.

PPE

No response to letter. Some LRFs assisting FDs, if this is to the correct route for FDs to obtain supplies, we should be told. DMAG's first letter has been escalated to the Secretary of State.

Jane Crossley, DHSC, joined the meeting and talked of phasing of supplies. The changing of guidance in relation to use of PPE was discussed. FDs are unsure which to follow and this may lead to overuse to protect themselves. NI state use of 2 body bags.

Attendance at funerals

An area of concern for which there is inconsistency from crematoria/cemeteries. NAFD & SAIF are to encourage members to limit numbers and DMAG will issue amended guidance for which it is hoped the Cabinet Office/LRFs will give their support.



FBCA
Federation of Burial
& Cremation Authorities



ICCM
Institute of Cemetery and
Crematorium Management



The Cremation Society

Deceased Management

Advisory Group

Collate & share, when ready, the data on funeral sector capacity that was commissioned by DAMG.

NAFD & SAIF to discuss at 10am on Monday.

CCS to work with MoJ re: Easter working

Survey conducted by FBCA/ICCM shows from 178 responses that there is sufficient capacity at Crematoria for Easter period and immediately after. It was questioned whether there was a need for Easter opening? The Co-operative Funeral Service will be advised of the survey responses to date.

Items for future meetings with Cabinet Office/Scottish Government

Much the same as previously. Funding for funeral directors. Considerable drop in income.

Hospital mortuaries not advising FDs of a death caused by Coronavirus. Families not being aware.

DHSC said there was no policy ruling – Doctor/Patient confidentiality?
Crematoria not cremating COVID19 cases with mourners present – Guidance sought

AOB

DWP working to help families through this time – Funeral Grant for all? –

DHSC to join Tuesday's meeting

MoJ wish to join each meeting of DMAG

Do we invite Wales & NI? When next to invite Scottish Government

Email from Debbie Kerslake – circulated to DMAG members

Consideration to be given to research options

Next meeting Monday 6th April at 4pm SAIF to Chair



FBCA
Federation of Burial
& Cremation Authorities



The Cremation Society