

Deceased Management

Advisory Group

Video Conference

30th April 2020

Notes

The members of DMAG held a video conference on 30th April 2020, with representatives from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and Scottish Government (SG).

The following matters were discussed:

1. MoJ update

There were no matters on which MoJ could update so time was taken to discuss the meeting with the Cabinet Office (CO) telecon held earlier in the afternoon.

The idea of an Online Portal for up to date Crematorium capacity initiated by ICCM & FBCA some weeks ago had been rejected by the CO but there are pressures from DMAG to re-open discussions on this. The idea that this portal would be opened up to all sectors of the profession and would be seen as a great benefit.

The matter of costs for PPE supplied to funeral service workers and whether this is free of charge was discussed and this matter will be pursued in line with representation on the financial effects the present situation is having on the funeral sector overall.

Concerns were expressed over the lack of or low supply of PPE in some areas.

2. Scottish Government Update

SG had issued guidance on PPE distribution through NAFD & SAIF and would be using their mailing lists to contact funeral directors who are not members of either association. Funeral Directors should use existing suppliers where necessary, should this prove fruitless the contact the SG who will ask a third party provider to make contact.

SG confirmed that PVC body bags were not suitable for cremation.

APCC recommended a specification be sought for what is a suitable body bag for cremation purposes.

3. Items for future meetings with the Cabinet Office/Scottish Government.

CO will be invited to join the next DMAG video conference to discuss the questions of hospital & funeral director capacities and the best way to measure ie date of death or date the deceased is taken in FDs care. The



Deceased Management

Advisory Group

arrangements for registration seem to be working well with little delays in families registering a death.

4 Cremation/Funeral Director Capacity Survey results.

The NAFD produced the initial results into funeral director capacity for storage of deceased persons.

There are conflicting reports in areas of London where no storage is available and temporary mortuaries are being used.

5 Memorials

The question was raised over whether the erection of memorials could be seen as essential work. Removal of memorials to allow the re-opening of a grave was said to be essential. With no memorials being erected over a possible eight week period this could lead to lengthy delays going forward. There will also be a supply issue as a large part of memorial orders are imported from India & China.

ICCM felt that Local Authorities would be able to process memorial applications as the number of deaths decline

The situation around churchyard burials would need to be considered.

6 Financial Vulnerability/Support

APCC has drafted an email for circulation within the funeral profession to gauge the economic effect that the present situation is having on funeral businesses, crematoria & cemeteries.

Appropriate statistics to be gathered quarterly to look at the average revenue per funeral. This needs to have a large sample size.

Stricest confidentiality must be assured as this will be a concern for participants.

7 PMART

DMAG felt that the response to its letter to the Mayor of London over concerns with the operation with PMART did not sufficiently answer the issues raised.

It was noted that no response had been received from the West Midlands to a similar letter.

8 AOB

NAFD had received an enquiry from the BBC relating to Form 4 – further details to be sought



FBCA
Federation of Burial
& Cremation Authorities



ICCM
Institute of Cemetery and
Crematorium Management



The Cremation Society

Deceased Management Advisory Group

APCC raised the issue of a potential rise in care home deaths and the availability of temporary storage facilities in Herts. Is there any capacity being used?

Apologies were received from The Cremation Society.

Next meeting Monday 4th May at 4pm



FBCA
Federation of Burial
& Cremation Authorities



ICCM
Institute of Cemetery and
Crematorium Management

