

# Deceased Management Advisory Group

## UPDATE 11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020

The members of DMAG held a video conference on 7 May 2020, with a representative from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) present for the open part of the meeting.

Apologies were received from FBCA.

### 1. MINISTRY OF JUSTICE UPDATE

MOJ reported that clarification had been sought from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on the interplay between the Public Health Act 1984 and Schedule 28 of the Coronavirus Act 2020. It was clarified that provisions in Schedule 28 overrode sections of the Public Health Act upon a local authority being designated by the relevant national authority. MHCLG will put this in writing to DMAG.

### 2. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no matters arising from the notes of the previous meeting.

## DMAG CLOSED MEETING

### 1. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS WITH CABINET OFFICE / SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

It was agreed to invite Cabinet Office to next Thursday's meeting, to discuss the scoping document for the online portal of crematoria slots.

MHCLG would be invited to attend next Monday or Wednesday, to discuss the co-ordination of local resilience forums.

Scottish Government would be invited to attend next Wednesday.

### 2 MENDIP COUNCIL INSTRUCTIONS



# Deceased Management

## Advisory Group

DMAG noted the instructions to funeral directors regarding interments at cemeteries. While the instructions, which set the responsibilities of funeral directors with respect to those attending the funeral, were reasonable in part, DMAG noted their tone did not emphasise the need for partnership working between funeral directors and cemetery staff; and further that it is Council owned property and therefore the responsibility of the Council staff to engage police enforcement, not the funeral director with their client.

### 3 APRIL CREMATIONS SURVEY

DMAG noted that there had been 112 responses from crematoria to the survey. This showed a 58% increase in the number of cremations carried out in April 2020 as compared to April 2019.

### 4 AOB ROUND ROBIN

DMAG noted that the decision to open churches for funerals by the Church of England had been delegated to each Diocesan Bishop.

It was noted that coffin suppliers were not reporting any shortage of materials, and hence no issues with regard to the coffin supply chain were anticipated.



**FBCA**  
Federation of Burial  
& Cremation Authorities



**ICCM**  
Institute of Cemetery and  
Crematorium Management

