

Deceased Management Advisory Group

UPDATE 25th JUNE 2020

The members of DMAG held a video conference on 25th June 2020, with representatives from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), Public Health England (PHE) and Scottish Government (SG) present for the open part of the meeting.

1. MINISTRY OF JUSTICE UPDATE

MOJ confirmed that the website had been updated with instructions to download cremation forms onto your own computer before completing them. Welsh translations of the forms will also be available.

2. PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND UPDATE

PHE reported that the revised guidance on managing a funeral and caring for the deceased, which had been announced for imminent release, had now been withdrawn from the clearance process. The reason for the withdrawal was so the guidance could be further amended to include updates on the easing of restrictions to come into effect from 4 July.

PHE clarified that overnight stays to attend a funeral were allowed.

Regarding the regulations and guidance on attendance at funerals, it was reported that the government intended to bring funerals into line with other gatherings such as weddings.

DMAG members emphasised the importance of guidance being issued as soon as possible, as funerals were already being arranged for after 4 July. DMAG also stressed the need for the guidance to be in line with that issued for places of worship to prevent any disparity on funeral attendance between the different types of venue.

On the regulations for the opening of crematoria for purposes other than for funerals, it was clarified the responsible government department was the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

3. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATE



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Scottish Government reported that the First Minister had announced indicative dates for moving to phase 3 of the Scottish Government's roadmap for easing restrictions. With regard to funerals, it was unlikely any easing of restrictions would happen before 23 July.

4. NOTES/MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

DMAG CLOSED MEETING

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

It was agreed that DMAG would emphasise in future meetings with the Cabinet Office and Scottish Government the need for guidance on the easing of restrictions from 4 July in England and 23 July in Scotland to be released as soon as possible.

2. LESSONS LEARNED CONSULTATION RESPONSES

DMAG members considered the responses to its lessons learned paper. It was agreed that the responses would be anonymised, and the document circulated to assist others with their own review process.

DMAG would consider the final document, and identify what matters it wished to take forward.

3. AOB ROUND ROBIN

It was agreed that DMAG would write to PHE to clarify a matter arising from DMAG previously commenting on draft PHE guidance.

