

Deceased Management Advisory Group

UPDATE 2nd July 2020

The members of DMAG held a video conference on 2nd July 2020 with representatives from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) & Scottish Government present for the open part of the meeting.

1. MINISTRY OF JUSTICE UPDATE

The MOJ were unable to give to the situation on funerals when relating to the relaxation of lockdown plans which are coming into force on 4th July. Guidance from the MHCLG is still awaited.

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he MOJ stated that overall legislation will remain in place and further legislation would be required to change anything under the Coronavirus Act 2020.

UPDATE: On Friday 3rd July the updated regulations to reflect the 4th July easements were announced:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/684/contents/made>

Further discussion took place regarding what funeral directors should do to help families surrounding funerals?

SAIF mentioned members are providing face masks, gloves & hand sanitiser:

FBCA commented that some crematoria had waiting rooms with windows through to the chapel from where mourners could watch services.

The MOJ asked whether funeral directors should have more responsibility to protect mourners? They also spoke of filming and broadcasting of services?

FFMA stated that families must play their own role in ensuring guidance is adhered to.



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SAIF reported this was already happening.

ICCM said that a number of crematoria were waiving their charges for webcasting. APCC confirmed its members were not charging for this service.

In response to previous questions regarding the secure disposal of Cremation Form 4, the MOJ suggested contact be made with the Information Commissioner's Office as GDPR is an issue

2. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATE:

It was stated that there is unlikely to be any update on easing of attendance at funerals prior to 23rd July. Options were being explored.

FBCA questioned localised lockdown north of the border but this is an unknown at the present time

3. DMAG's view on the options/levers where a local lockdown occurs to avoid throughput delays?

FBCA commented that if there should be a local lockdown affecting the funeral sector resources could be brought in from other areas?

NAFD asked that this topic be referred to Monday's meeting

4. Any observations from the PPT data and learnings to add to the CO in terms of preparedness? (demography, housing, deprivation, age profiles in urban settings).

APCC referred to slide 7 which he found of particular interest. The information provided confirmed what had previously been stated regarding possible areas such as North East/Yorkshire where second waves might be prevalent.

SAIF suggested that a 'task force' be considered formed of key people to include members of DMAG, Cabinet Office, LRFs to respond in future more quickly and with a better level of preparedness.



FBCA
Federation of Burial
& Cremation Authorities



The Cremation Society

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APCC would like to see the demographic more specifically regionalised as the present areas were too large.

5. NOTES

ICCM asked that they be included in further discussions and research into Public Health funerals and MOJ will refer this request to the MHCLG.

The Cremation Society confirmed that the ICCM document on this subject had been referred to by MHCLG earlier this week

DMAG CLOSED MEETING

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

It was agreed that DMAG would represent the standing list of issues and seek clarification of any progress made by the Cabinet Office.

2. LESSON LEARNED

SAIF spoke of 'buddying' support among funeral directors which could be through social media means.

FFMA had previously mentioned this when suggesting funeral directors share coffin stocks through peak times.

APCC asked about local lockdowns and being able travel out of that area.

APCC also spoke of each associations' own priority areas and these need to be addressed more specifically.



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This topic is to be placed on the agenda again on Monday as it is a wideranging subject. Key outcomes need to be decided and which areas DMAG can deliver on.

The document will be re-issued with responses made anonymous.

Closer co-operation with LRFs was discussed.

SAIF had re-circulated its document on the environment and it is thought this is one area of specific importance going forward.

NAFD commented that in other circles live exercises are held to prepare for worse case scenarios.

FBCA stated that plans that had been discussed 12 months ago on pandemic planning had not been used.

3. AOB ROUND ROBIN

SAIF and NAFD discussed 'thought leadership' on equality and diversity in respect of professional development which could future proof the sector.

Next meeting Monday 6th July 2020 at 4pm.



FBCA
Federation of Burial
& Cremation Authorities



ICCM
Institute of Cemetery and
Crematorium Management



The Cremation Society