

# Deceased Management Advisory Group

## Update 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020

The members of DMAG held a video conference on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020, with 2 representatives from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) present for the open part of the meeting. CSGB chaired the meeting.

### DMAG Wider Consultation

#### **1. Ministry of Justice update.**

Following on from last Thursday's meeting regarding the Bereavement Leaflet, MOJ informed DMAG that they had put a request to ask how many times the document had been downloaded. As stated this document is undergoing revision by MHCLG and a draft will be provided to DMAG to review.

There was a question raised by MOJ regarding a recent funeral that was attended by over two hundred mourners. After some discussion it was thought that the matter should be raised with the Communities and Faith Group at MHCLG.

#### **2. Letter regarding face masks at crematoria.**

There seems to be some confusion regarding the use of face masks in funerals, with some operators asking that mourners wear face masks when attending services / ceremonies in the crematorium's chapel. It seems to be the Private Sector rather than the Local Authority Crematoria who have made this request. It was felt that there needs to be uniformity throughout the sector regarding this and DMAG will ask CO on Thursday for clarification. There are some operators who are now using the one metre plus rule rather than the two metre rule in order to increase the number of mourners who can attend. ICCM will write to Bernie Hannigan PHE for clarification on the guidance.

#### **3. Notes from previous meeting.**

Nothing to add to the notes.



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DMAG closed meeting

**1. Items for future meetings with Cabinet Office/Scottish Government.**

It was agreed that the use of face masks and guidance for FD's crossing "lockdown" boundaries (see item 5) should be added to our list for this week's CO meeting.

**2. Letter to Matt Hancock.**

The suggested amendments from APCC had been added to the letter and it was agreed that this could now be sent to the Minister.

**3. DMAG notes on website.**

There have been occasions when our discussions have been quite sensitive and therefore should not be published on our website. It was agreed that, if required, any sensitive matters are recorded on a separate document.

**4. Guideline variance.**

It was suggested that we invite representatives from Memoria, Westerleigh, CMG etc. to a future DMAG meeting in order that we can possibly get some uniformity on the 2 metre rule/use of face masks and our concerns that this will cause potential confusion to the bereaved. In the meantime, we will wait for clarification from Cabinet Office on Thursday.

**5. AOB Round Robin.**

SAIF informed DMAG that some of his members were being asked to collect the data from the chief mourner for Test and Trace, when the guidance is saying that the crematoria/ cemetery should be taking the information. SAIF also asked if there were any guidelines for Funeral Directors who are crossing boundaries in regards to "lockdown" cities and towns. It was suggested that we would seek guidance from Cabinet Office.

