

# Deceased Management Advisory Group

## UPDATE 29<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2020

The members of DMAG held a video conference on 29th June 2020, with representatives from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) present for the open part of the meeting.

### 1. MINISTRY OF JUSTICE UPDATE

The MOJ are currently the lead department investigating the ongoing provision of PPE. What are the needs of the funeral sector, where are supplies sourced and are there any weaknesses in the supply chain? If there are known weaknesses, what remedies are required and what steps can government take to support the sector?

The NAFD offered to share a 'Lesson Learned on PPE' document which they had prepared.

Any further information regarding PPE, also relating to Cemeteries and Crematoria, should be forwarded to the MoJ.

### 2. MINISTRY OF HOUSING, COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Death Management Team in MHCLG had been tasked with producing non statutory guidance on Public Health Funerals. They had seen the ICCM document which is excellent and wanted further advice from DMAG.

The MHCLG representatives outlined the areas they would include in their guidance, which included setting out a good practice overview, the legal principles, the need for dignity throughout, timeline, conversations with the next of kin, understanding and following the wishes of the deceased where they are known, recovering costs and administration.

DMAG members commented on the proposals, answered several questions, and offered to read and comment on a draft document if it was made available.



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## 3. 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 represent the standing list of issues and seek clarification of any progress made by the Cabinet Office.

#### 2. STATISTICS

The statistics provided by the Cremation Society indicate both total deaths and those due to COVID19. Having completed the first half of the year it would be useful to analyse the data to provide an indication of the likely number of funerals through the remainder of 2020.

#### 3. AOB ROUND ROBIN

A discussion took place on the future role of DMAG and the issues it could usefully address. It was agreed that DMAG could provide a sector wide approach, providing 'thought leadership' on matters including diversity in the sector and the environment. SAIF agreed to reshare a paper on the environment with a view to it being discussed at a future meeting.

A request had been received to have celebrants included within the priority groups when a vaccine for COVID19 becomes available.

It was decided to seek further clarity on the practical application of 'Track and Trace' and the implications there could be for staff in the funeral sector.

