

Deceased Management Advisory Group

Update 20th August 2020

The members of DMAG held a video conference on 20th August 2020, with representatives from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), Scottish Government (SG) & Northern Ireland Government (NI) present for the open part of the meeting. FFMA chaired the meeting.

DMAG Wider Consultation

1. Ministry of Justice update.

Questions arose around the Public Health England successor organisation. APCC confirmed that contacts would be the same.

SAIF has written to the DHSC asking if PPE will be available to Funeral Directors in the event of a second wave.

APCC again asked the question regarding a response to the paper on future meetings of the Burial and Cremation Advisory Group (BCAG). MoJ are considering the way forward and what changes, if any, may be made. Previous minutes will be forwarded on completion of a circulation list. Would sub-committees within the BCAG structure be feasible? Possible meeting date will be the end of September.

2. Scottish Government update.

The three week review in Scotland has taken place with no changes announced. The next review will be mid-September when an increase in the number allowed to attend weddings and funerals will be considered.

3. Northern Ireland Government update

Guidance has been updated. There is consideration on re-imposing restrictions based on numbers inside venues which will be dependent on size. Outdoor services are subject to risk assessment. NI are enjoying good working relationships with Funeral Directors.

Churches in NI are looking to impose face masks should be worn at all services.



Deceased Management Advisory Group

DMAG closed meeting

1. Notes from previous meeting.

Nothing to add and accepted to place on website.

2. Items for future meetings with Cabinet Office/Devolved Governments.

APCC raised questions surrounding the work of the LRFs. Their level of performance being variable.

NAFD suggested a clear role for funeral directors who serve on LRFs be defined which could enhance communication.

It is thought some LRFs work under a level of high confidentiality. Should a job description for representatives be introduced?

3. Draft letter to CMA

A further letter to the CMA has been drafted by APCC.

NAFD recommended enhancing the final paragraph which will be done. The draft will then be re-circulated.

Concerns continue to be expressed over the CMA time-table which gives little time for considered responses.

4. CO draft on reducing funeral delays.

The CO had circulated notes for consideration. DMAG feel it is difficult to respond in quantifiable form. The matter will be tabled for DMAG meeting on Thursday 27th August for further discussion.

5. AOB Round Robin.

It was unanimously agreed that CSGB would continue to provide daily statistics.

NAFD recommended that the DMAG response to CMA be published on the website and in social media. Copies to be sent to the Secretary of State for Business. SAIF stated that CMA should be pressurised to respond.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 24th August at 4pm.
APCC or SAIF to chair.



FBCA
Federation of Burial
& Cremation Authorities



The Cremation Society