

# Deceased Management Advisory Group

## UPDATE 30<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020

The members of DMAG held a video conference on 30<sup>th</sup> 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

MOJ note that their Principal Lead during the Pandemic was moving to other duties and a replacement had been appointed. It was noted that DMAG, being a solution focussed group, had played a significant part in discussions on many topics throughout previous few months.

Further discussion took place on DMAG's view that a pre-meeting between DMAG and MOJ be scheduled before future Burial and Cremation Advisory Group (BCAG) meetings. APCC presented a paper for discussion, the contents of which will be discussed at the next DMAG meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> August and outcomes referred to MOJ for comment.

### 2. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Scotland remains in phase 3 of the route map to come out of lockdown. The rules around funerals remain with 20 being the maximum being allowed to attend a service. Scottish Government are looking into reports where this is not being adhered to.

## DMAG CLOSED MEETING

### 1. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

These were approved for adding to the DMAG website

### 2. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS WITH CABINET OFFICE / SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT



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There are no new items to add the present time.

It was agreed that this morning's meeting with the Cabinet Office had been quite encouraging with full explanation given into the differing messages issued given last week over face masks being worn at funeral offices.

### 3. LESSONS LEARNED DRAFT

The digital draft has been circulated to DMAG members. NAFD questioned whether contributors' permission was needed to print their comments or, anonymising their views was sufficient protection? Opinions will be sought and this will be further discussed at next Monday's (3/8) meeting.

### 4. SAFE FUNERAL PROTOCOL

NAFD raised a discussion on the paper which had been circulated and DMAG would give their approval. Although initiated by Co-operative Funeral Service this was not to be branded as such. This will be added to the agenda for Monday's (3/8) meeting.

### 5. AOB ROUND ROBIN

FBCA raised the issue of local lockdowns and how this would affect the ability of mourners attending funerals. Should protocols be put in place?

Discussion took place over Dignity's 6 months financial report which showed an increase in the number of funerals and profit. This raised a question of what effect Covid will have on funeral businesses over the next six months when the true impact of the past few months may be seen.

SAIF spoke of the statement given by Dignity at this morning's Cabinet Office meeting when it was stated they had been asked by an unnamed LRF to carry out a COVID testing programme on deceased in their care. The question SAIF asked was 'what is the purpose?' while NAFD asked 'Whether this was a Human Tissue Authority matter?'

The meeting closed and the next meeting will be on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August at 4pm.



**FBCA**  
Federation of Burial  
& Cremation Authorities

