

# Deceased Management Advisory Group

## Update 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020

The members of DMAG held a video conference on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020, with a representative from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and Scottish Government (SG) for the open part of the meeting. The ICCM chaired the meeting.

### DMAG Wider Consultation

#### 1. MoJ update

The newly appointed MoJ representative started last week and will be joining future DMAG meetings whenever possible. They reported that guidance on Public Health Funerals has been produced by the MHCLG and is currently waiting final sign-off before being circulated.

#### 2. SG update

The SG representative reported that the Inspector of Crematoria's annual report for 2019-20 had been published today. The First Minister is due to review current guidance and may report on any changes to funeral attendance on Thursday, when the next review of current restrictions is due.

### DMAG Meeting

#### 1. Notes from previous meeting

The notes were agreed as an accurate record which could be published on the DMAG website.

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

The issue of PPE needs to remain high on the agenda with clarity required around whether funeral directors will be part of a central booking system due to their key worker status.

The VAT relief on PPE is due to run out on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020. It is hoped that this deadline may be extended following the efforts being made by DMAG members in this regard.

#### 3. All Party Parliamentary Group on Funerals and Bereavement

The future of the APPG was discussed, with the NAFD sharing some ideas for how it may be developed into a broader and more beneficial group for the sector.



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## 4. CMA

The APCC had circulated a response from the CMA regarding the extension of the deadline for comment on their proposed remedies. The NAFD and SAIF have received an extension to 1<sup>st</sup> October, with the same applying to SAIF members. NAFD members are having to negotiate their own extensions. Any company or organisation that wishes to have a hearing with the CMA has to provide justification for their reasons for wanting a hearing. The APCC will contact the CMA again tomorrow and will inform DMAG of the outcome.

## 5. AOB Round robin

JL reported a discussion with the Cabinet Office regarding the DMAG Lessons Learned document.

The FFMA representative gave their apologies for the next meeting.

A representative from the MHCLG will be invited to the next meeting to discuss their Public Health Funerals guidance.

The next meeting is on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September and the NAFD will chair.



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