

# Deceased Management Advisory Group

## UPDATE 10 SEPTEMBER 2020

The members of DMAG held a video conference on 10 September 2020, with representatives from Public Health England (PHE) and Scottish Government present for the open part of the meeting.

### 1. PHE UPDATE

PHE reported that guidance on managing a funeral was to be updated following the revised regulations on restrictions to gatherings being published, which were expected to be laid in Parliament late on 11 September.

PHE reported that the guidance would set out that the maximum number of people who could attend a funeral was 30. This did not include venue staff or others present in a working capacity (funeral director, celebrant etc). Gatherings before and after the funeral service were not included in the definition of 'funeral' and hence would be subject to the general regulations on gatherings. This meant that gatherings occurring in a person's home would be limited to six, and gatherings in a COVID-secure venue could be larger, but would have to be arranged in groups of six with 2m social distancing between them.

PHE reported that the guidance would also confirm that musicians could perform at funerals, but that mourners should not sing or chant.

APCC asked whether there would be a role for COVID Marshalls in helping deal with large gatherings at funerals. However, it was understood that COVID Marshalls would have no enforcement powers.

### 2. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATE

Scottish Government reported that the regulations were due for review on 14 September, but that it was not expected that there would be any change to the maximum number of people who could attend a funeral, i.e. 20. From 14 September up to 20 people could attend wakes in regulated venues.



# Deceased Management Advisory Group

Scottish Government reported that no decisions had been taken on musicians performing at funerals. At the moment, this was forbidden.

## DMAG CLOSED MEETING

### 1. NOTES/MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The notes of the previous meeting were accepted for publication. There were no matters arising.

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

DMAG members agreed to raise the following matters with Cabinet Office:

- Local Resilience Forums: Any changes to arrangements following the review of their activities during first wave of the pandemic?
- PPE: Arrangements for supplies for funeral directors during second wave should normal supply routes run dry

### 3. COMPETITION AND MARKETS AUTHORITY (CMA)

DMAG members noted that all member organisations of DMAG had been granted until 1 October 2020 to respond to the CMA's Provisional Decision Report.

It was agreed that DMAG would look at generic issues facing the sector arising from the CMA report in October, in order to make final representations to the CMA before 31 October.

### 4. AOB ROUND ROBIN

ICCM reported that concerns had been raised that some funeral directors were not supporting steps to restrict numbers at funerals, and were looking to circumvent government guidance. NAFD and SAIF reported that they had sent strong messages to their members that adherence to government guidance was expected. The revised PHE guidance would present another opportunity to reinforce this message.

