

Deceased Management Advisory Group

UPDATE 5th November 2020

The members of DMAG held a video conference on 5th November 2020, with a representative from Ministry of Justice (MoJ) present for the open part of the meeting.

1. MoJ UPDATE

The much awaited updated PHE guidance was discussed particularly in regard to attendance at funeral services. It is felt that the term 'close family' would require defining but this is seen as very difficult with family situations being so varied. Reference was made to advice previously issued by FBCA & ICCM.

The MOJ had met with MHCLG & CCS to discuss the work of the 38 LRFs. Questions were raised over the supply of PPE and the varied roles played by LRFs during the first wave when some LRFs distributed to the funeral sector quite freely but others did not offer the same support. There was also a question of whether LRFs should be charging funeral directors or if it should be free.

The MOJ asked for feedback on: How do the funeral sector source PPE? How did it work in the first wave? What were the experiences when dealing with LRFs?

Preparations for the Festive period in relation to crematoria and mortuary capacities were raised by FBCA. It was felt that Registrars, Hospitals & Coroners had an important role to play if a delay in funerals was to be averted.

What plans are in place for temporary mortuaries to be set up? Birmingham Airport is still in place but the Chelmsford facility has been removed.

ICCM raised a question regarding the Cemetery & Crematoria grounds being closed but visitors were still allowed. Can memorial masons continue to work in cemeteries?

SAIF asked about hospitals and care homes advising funeral directors by identifying COVID cases to aid what level of PPE the funeral director would require.



FBCA
Federation of Burial
& Cremation Authorities



The Cremation Society

Deceased Management Advisory Group

DMAG CLOSED MEETING

1. NOTES/MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

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

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

Would a longer version of PHE guidance be made available for the DMAG website?

What information would the Cabinet Office like to draw from the online national booking portal?

3. NATIONAL BOOKING PORTAL

It was noted that this is now up and running. What does DMAG look to gain from its use?

4. COMPETITION AND MARKETS AUTHORITY (CMA)

APCC & NAFD had held an earlier meeting to discuss revenue information to be provided to the CMA and how this would be sourced. APCC had written to the Cremation Society for assistance as the CSofGB conduct an annual survey with crematoria. A response is awaited. NAFD would look to survey their members but this might be only those in certain grades. The SAIF – CMA Taskgroup will wait for the CMA's response to their PDR.

5. AOB ROUND ROBIN

It was agreed that there was no requirement for an increase in DMAG's twice weekly meetings at the present time.

However, APCC asked that agendas be more defined.

APCC would chair the next meeting.

