

# Deceased Management Advisory Group

## UPDATE 29 OCTOBER 2020

The members of DMAG held a video conference on 29 October 2020, with representatives from Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and Scottish Government present for the open part of the meeting. Apologies were received from FFMA and the Cremation Society.

### 1. MoJ UPDATE

MoJ had circulated prior to the meeting an information request to assist with their understanding of the key risks facing the sector in managing the second wave of the virus. The request asked for details on:

- Mutual aid: arrangements between funeral directors to assist one another
- Live streaming in crematoria
- Any concerns about staffing, capacity and throughput in areas under Tier 3 restrictions

APCC enquired whether MoJ had seen the presentation received from Obitus on live streaming. MoJ confirmed that they had seen this. APCC agreed to also send this to the Scottish Government.

SAIF outlined the arrangements between put in place in Scotland whereby funeral directors would assist one another, in particular where funeral directors faced staffing difficulties due to staff needing to self-isolate. While this was primarily an arrangement between SAIF members, it was understood that Co-op and Dignity were also involved.

DMAG members would send relevant details to MoJ in relation to the three areas highlighted in the information request.

### 2. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATE

Scottish Government reported that the First Minister had now outlined where each area of Scotland would sit in the new five-tiered system. It was noted that no areas were in tier zero. Guidance was being updated to



# Deceased Management

## Advisory Group

include reference to the five-tiered system, and would be published shortly.

Scottish Government reported that it was a requirement in regulations for crematoria to have a management plan in place to cope with any spike in the number of deaths. The Inspector of Crematoria was currently checking these plans.

Scottish Government agreed to circulate to DMAG members the guidance under which funeral staff could seek assessment from a health professional on the need to self-isolate under the Test and Protect scheme.

### 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

No matters were raised.

#### 3. NATIONAL BOOKING PORTAL

DMAG members agreed to the following words being placed on the landing page of the OPUSXenta portal:

*In its Lessons Learned report DMAG called for the creation of a central booking portal for cremations. Whilst DMAG are unable to recommend any individual supplier, it welcomes the provision of this additional facility by OpusXenta which Cremation Authorities and Funeral Directors may wish to explore.*



# Deceased Management

## Advisory Group

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

APCC had circulated prior to the meeting a letter to CMA regarding the CMA's proposal that funeral directors and crematoria supply information to them regarding revenue and the number of funerals. As some DMAG members had not had an opportunity to read the letter, this item was deferred until the next meeting.

### 5. STREAMING SERVICES

APCC would circulate the presentation from Obitus to the Devolved Administrations.

### 6. AOB ROUND ROBIN

There was no any other business.

SAIF would chair the next meeting.



**FBCA**  
Federation of Burial  
& Cremation Authorities



**ICCM**  
Institute of Cemetery and  
Crematorium Management

