

Deceased Management Advisory Group

UPDATE 17 DECEMBER 2020

The members of DMAG held a video conference on 17 December 2020, with representatives from Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and Welsh Government present for the open part of the meeting.

1. MoJ UPDATE

SAIF highlighted two issues that were causing delays to funerals. Firstly, in Kent, delays to the processing of paperwork were holding up funerals. Secondly, in Nottinghamshire, a Coroner was only doing high-risk post-mortems on one day of the week. The MoJ agreed to explore these issues further and report back.

2. WELSH GOVERNMENT UPDATE

Welsh Government reported there was a concern about the high number of COVID-19 patients in Intensive Care Units, which was caused by the increased length of time that COVID-19 patients stayed in care. There had been an increase in COVID-19 deaths in South Wales, but these increases were not large enough for additional mortuary provision to be used.

It was noted that under Tier 4 of the Welsh system, wakes were forbidden. Otherwise, funerals were unaffected.

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



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There were no additional matters to be raised with Cabinet Office/Scottish Government. NAFD confirmed that the Cabinet Office would be invited to a future meeting of DMAG.

3. VACCINATION PRIORITY

DMAG noted the response from the Welsh Government to its letter calling for funeral staff to be on the priority list

DMAG members agreed that a letter would be sent to the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) making the strong case for all workers throughout the funeral, cremation and burial sector workers to be on the priority list for vaccination.

4. APPG STRATEGY MEETING DEBRIEF/BUDGET/DATABASE

DMAG members agreed that they would consult their respective governing bodies regarding the costs of the APPG being equally split between the member organisations, with no more than £10K per organisation being spent on the APPG.

It was agreed that SAIF would raise with JBP Associates the timing of engaging MPs about the APPGs work, and the timing of the proposed reception.

It was agreed that the press release regarding the Chair of the APPG writing to Ministers on PPE and VAT, and priority for vaccinations, be placed on the DMAG website.

5. SELF ISOLATION DUE TO CLOSE CONTACT

DMAG welcomed the email from DHSC confirming that local health protection teams could be called upon to risk-assess the need for funeral staff to self-isolate in the event that large numbers of staff self-isolating causes operational difficulties.

It was agreed that, in communicating this, it was important that this applied to all roles across the sector, and not just funeral directors.



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6. ACCESS TO PPE

DMAG welcomes the email from DHSC confirming that, should supplies of PPE run dry through the normal routes, emergency supplies of PPE would be available from local resilience forums.

7. AOB ROUND ROBIN

DMAG members confirmed they were happy for two Cremation Society representatives to attend meetings while the Society was recruiting for its CEO. Notwithstanding this, in the event that a vote was need on a particular issue, the Society would have one vote.



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Crematorium Management

