

Deceased Management Advisory Group

UPDATE 30th NOVEMBER 2020

The members of DMAG held a video conference on 30th November 2020, with representatives from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), and the Welsh Government (SC). The NI Government submitted a written update prior to the meeting. The meeting was chaired by SAIF.

1. MoJ UPDATE

The NAFD asked about Christmas opening hours for registrars and coroners and how this is likely to be managed with the public holidays. The MOJ advised that they had discussed this with the LRFs and MHCLG.

Members of DMAG were asked to submit geographical areas where specific concerns exist to the MOJ. MOJ will also liaise with the GRO too.

2. Senedd Cymru

SC advised that guidance on managing funerals is working through the various levels. SC wanted to ensure that mourners who were COVID-19 positive understood the risks to other mourners and emphasising the responsibility ethic as well as freedom to choose to attend.

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

The APCC raised the question of any alterations to managing funerals in any future tier changes and that revised guidance be timely.



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The NAFD remarked that we need to keep pressing on matters such as vaccination and testing of funeral staff. The WHO had developed a three stage roll out of priority for the vaccine, whereas the UK Government was only addressing stage 1, the vulnerability criteria.

3. AOB ROUND ROBIN

The APCC opened up the subject of email traffic and data consumption. It was agreed to respond over emails only to essential matters where possible.

The NAFD are producing an article on DMAG for the FDM. Deb Smith will be contacting DMAG members.

4. APPG ON FUNERALS

DMAG need to agree on a formula for covering costs, it was felt turnover would not work. The ICCM said that the weight of influence should be equal among the member organisations, irrespective of financial contribution.

JBP and MP joined the meeting to discuss Wednesday's Agenda for the newly organised APPG on Funerals.

The agenda was discussed.

i) The matter of vaccination and key worker status would be raised by the NAFD.

Desired outcomes would be determined, from minister engagement to media.

ii) PPE & VAT rebates would be raised by SAIF.

Members of DMAG should feel free to contribute practical examples of these points.

iii) If time permits MP will show the development of the new website.

Research is ongoing and media releases on these issues will take place.



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Institute of Cemetery and
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The Cremation Society

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It was noted that BAME funeral representatives for DMAG organisations need to be included and consideration for a joined up approach to the Cross Party Groups on funerals across the devolved nations.

The ICCM asked that it can be made clear that key workers includes those working in cemeteries and crematoria.

The APCC asked that the MPs and officers had a good context for the UK death management process.

Date for a strategy meeting agreed 12noon to 1pm Monday 14th December 2020.

The date for the next APPG on Funerals is 2pm Tuesday 19th January 2021.

DMAG meets on Thursday to be chaired by the FFMA.



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