

Deceased Management Advisory Group

Update 15th February 2021

The members of DMAG held a video conference on 15th February 2021, with representatives from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), the Scottish Government (SG), and the Northern Ireland Department of Health (NI) present for the 'Open' part of the meeting. The ICCM chaired the meeting. The APCC and FBCA had sent apologies.

DMAG Wider Consultation

1. Ministry of Justice (MOJ) update

- 1.1. The MoJ reported that a previously asked question about lateral flow testing was being considered and would be answered at a future DMAG meeting.
- 1.2. ICCM queried whether the long form guidance on managing funerals was imminent. MoJ reported that this is currently being updated to take into account the requirements for hotel quarantine introduced today.
- 1.3. SAIF enquired whether a funeral can currently take place in a private dwelling. DMAG understood that in England and Northern Ireland a funeral cannot take place in a private dwelling. The SG representative will check the situation in Scotland and report back.
- 1.4. The NAFD raised the issue of some improvements to the death care process being changed back once the coronavirus legislation ends, eg death certification, electronic submission of forms etc. DMAG are keen to retain as many of the positive aspects as possible, and asked if a legal basis for keeping them is being worked on. MoJ stated that this will lie with DHSC, but was keen to understand what has worked well and why.
- 1.5. SAIF asked if it was possible to have a coffin at home, if not a funeral. In Northern Ireland this is possible if the deceased did not die from Covid-19, but only those in the household or bubble can visit. The coffin lid can be removed. In Scotland people are discouraged from taking a coffin to a private dwelling. SG and MoJ will check regarding any further restrictions on having a coffin at home and report back.

2. Scottish Government (SG) update

- 2.1. SG has been focussing on quarantine measures. People are allowed to leave quarantine to attend a funeral, but must return to quarantine immediately after,



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and are not allowed to attend a wake or other celebration. People are being encouraged to consider quarantine requirements when planning a funeral.

- 2.2. The Cabinet Secretary gave a press briefing on Friday which contained a strong message thanking people for keeping to restrictions regarding funerals and encouraging them to continue to do so. SG will send a link to the website with details of the briefing to DMAG.

3. Northern Ireland Department of Health (NI)

- 3.1. NI reported that they are in the middle of vaccinations for funeral workers.
- 3.2. NI are still working on their public messaging with respect to excess mourners at funerals.

DMAG Closed Meeting

1. Notes from previous meeting.

1.1 The notes of the meeting on 8th February 2021 were agreed and will be placed on the DMAG website. The notes of the meeting on 11th February 2021 were agreed by those present at this meeting. Two members of DMAG are still to comment; the notes will be placed on the DMAG website once those comments have been received.

2. Items for future meetings with Cabinet Office/Devolved Governments

- 2.1. The usual list of items will be submitted ahead of the CO meeting on Thursday.
- 2.2. DMAG would like the meeting to consider plans for coming out of lockdown. NAFD will prompt the CO to include this when they submit their list of items for discussion.

3. AOB – Round Robin

- 3.1. NAFD reported that JBP will be presenting an update on the APPG at Thursday's meeting.
- 3.2. The funding for the APPG has to be shown on the public register. DMAG agreed that the funding from DMAG could be shown.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 18th February 2021 with FBCA chairing the meeting.

