

Deceased Management Advisory Group

Update 15th March 2021

The members of DMAG held a video conference on 15th March 2021, with representatives from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ); Scottish Government (SG); Welsh Government (SC); and Northern Ireland Government (NI) present for the 'Open' part of the meeting. The Cremation Society chaired the meeting.

DMAG Wider Consultation

1. Ministry of Justice (MOJ)

The MOJ representative reported that Lord David Wolfson of Tredegar QC has been appointed as the new Minister of Justice in the House of Lords..

2. Welsh Government (SC)

There was no update.

3. Scottish Government (SG)

- a. An announcement is due to be made tomorrow on the new framework of restrictions for the various levels in Scotland.
- b. Scottish Government has submitted its response to the CMA following the Funerals Market investigation report
- c. The SG representative asked whether DMAG was aware of any difficulties in its members receiving the COVID-19 vaccination. They had been made aware of some instances where funeral directors had been told that if they had missed taking up the vaccination where they were eligible to do so , they would have to wait until they became eligible under the roll-out programme for the general public. NAFD said they were aware of this being an issue in the Glasgow/Clyde area. SG will investigate further.
- d. The SG representative was aware that the issue of the 'letter of comfort' relating to excess numbers of mourners, was outstanding and this would be dealt with as soon as possible



FBCA
Federation of Burial
& Cremation Authorities



The Cremation Society

Deceased Management Advisory Group

4. Northern Ireland Government (NI)

- a. The NI representative reported that there would be an announcement tomorrow on the relaxation of restrictions but it was anticipated that any easing would be from 1st April at the earliest.
- b. Vaccination rollout continues and the programme has reached Phase 9.

DMAG Closed Meeting

1. Notes from the Previous Meetings.

The notes with the amendments were agreed upon.

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

It was felt that NAFD's draft paper on the lifting of restrictions had received a positive response from PHE. This would continue to be worked on and raised with Cabinet Office as there was concern that the easing of funeral restrictions should generally run in parallel with the easing of other social restrictions, to avoid the funeral sector being criticised for being over-cautious. SAIF raised concern at the future limitation imposed on numbers at wakes and how that would work in reality, when other social gathering numbers would change.

3. The APPG on Funerals and Bereavement

NAFD, SAIF and the Cremation Society reported on their discussions with JBP. APPG DMAG members are to indicate their separate special interest themes and common DMAG concerns.

4. AOB Round Robin

There were no further matters raised.

The next meeting will be on Monday 22th March at 4pm. FBCA will chair the next meeting.



Deceased Management Advisory Group



FBCA
Federation of Burial
& Cremation Authorities



ICCM
Institute of Cemetery and
Crematorium Management



The Cremation Society