

# Deceased Management Advisory Group

## Update 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021

The members of DMAG held a video conference on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021, with representatives from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ); Welsh Government (SC); Scottish Government (SG); and Northern Ireland Government (NI) present for the 'Open' part of the meeting. Apologies were received from the FBCA. The ICCM chaired the meeting.

### DMAG Wider Consultation

#### 1. Ministry of Justice (MOJ)

The MOJ representative asked for any concerns regarding testing programmes to be reported to him.

The MoJ representative was asked if there is any update regarding the Law Commission's proposed review of burial and cremation law. DMAG were informed that the MoJ and the Law Commission are due to meet soon, and that the MoJ expect that burial and cremation law will be included in the next review programme. However, the Law Commission will have to consult on their programme in due course.

The MoJ representative confirmed that there are no changes to funerals from 29<sup>th</sup> March, but that from 12<sup>th</sup> April up to 15 people will be allowed to attend a linked event such as the scattering or burial of ashes.

DMAG noted that there is no Cabinet Office meeting this week, and that the next DMAG meeting will be on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April, which will be after the next CO meeting. The NAFD representative reported that he will be away during the week of the CO meeting, so somebody else will need to submit the list of issues. An ad hoc meeting could be called in advance of the CO meeting if deemed necessary.

#### 2. Welsh Government (SC)

The SC representative informed DMAG that the recent relaxation of restrictions in Wales does not have any impact on funeral and related events attendance. Wakes cannot be held as yet.

#### 3. Scottish Government (SG)

The SG representative thanked DMAG for feedback last week on easing restrictions in Scotland. An update will be published soon.

Feedback on the funeral director code of practice is still being sought, particularly from funeral directors in the Islands. DMAG were asked to encourage any such members to provide their feedback.

NAFD asked the devolved governments for details of what is happening regarding testing programmes. The representatives will email relevant details to DMAG.



**FBCA**  
Federation of Burial  
& Cremation Authorities



**ICCM**  
Institute of Cemetery and  
Crematorium Management



**The Cremation Society**

# Deceased Management Advisory Group

## 4. Northern Ireland Government (NI)

The NI representative informed DMAG that there is currently no provision for businesses to have employees tested for the coronavirus.

Currently 25 people can attend a funeral, and there are no pre or post funeral gatherings. This will be considered on 15<sup>th</sup> April, when numbers may be increased. Currently the scattering of ashes is a matter for the one crematorium in Northern Ireland.

### DMAG Closed Meeting

#### 1. Notes from the previous meeting

The notes with the amendments were agreed, and will be placed on the DMAG website by the Cremation Society.

#### 2. Review of last week's CO meeting

DMAG updated the ICCM on what had happened at the Cabinet Office meeting last week, as the ICCM had been unable to attend. DMAG felt that the meeting had been positive, with some good outcomes.

#### 3. Items for future meetings with Cabinet Office/Devolved Governments.

The list of previous topics would be reviewed and resubmitted. A representative from Public Health England would be invited to the next DMAG meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

#### 4. The APPG on Funerals and Bereavement

The Chair of the APPG is going to draft a letter to the CO regarding coordination. This will be chased up after Easter if it is not forthcoming before.

DMAG to send list of priorities to JBP.

#### 5. AOB Round Robin

SAIF asked about lateral flow test schemes in England. Three were identified:

- a) Go to a testing centre
- b) Set up as a testing centre (businesses with over 50 employees); NAFD reported that some members had tried to do this but had heard nothing back.
- c) Testing kits sent to individuals (new service)



**FBCA**  
Federation of Burial  
& Cremation Authorities



**ICCM**  
Institute of Cemetery and  
Crematorium Management



The Cremation Society

# Deceased Management Advisory Group

The next meeting will be on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 4pm. NAFD will chair the next meeting.



**FBCA**  
Federation of Burial  
& Cremation Authorities



**ICCM**  
Institute of Cemetery and  
Crematorium Management



**The Cremation Society**