

Deceased Management Advisory Group

Update 10th May 2021

The members of DMAG held a video conference on 10th May 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. FFMA chaired the meeting.

DMAG Wider Consultation

1. The Ministry of Justice (MOJ)

The MOJ advised that long form guidance was forthcoming shortly. (Since issued)

Micra Pacemakers, and their effects on cremators, was discussed. Although there is evidence to suggest that these do not need to be removed prior to cremation it is advised that Crematoria seek guidance from the cremator manufacturers.

Members asked whether the MOJ should revisit the matter of pacemakers and other such medical implants as technology has advanced. Does guidance need to be updated?

2. Welsh Government (SC)

Updated guidance has been issued with little change. Up to 30 people can attend an indoor wakes or 50 outdoors.

3. Scottish Government (SG)

There will be changes to Levels from 17th May with some relaxation.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-protection-levels/>

4. Northern Ireland (NI)

An indicative date of 24th May has been set for the resumption of post-funeral gatherings. (numbers to be informed by a risk assessment for the venue).

The indicative date of 24th May is subject to review on 20th May.

DMAG Closed Meeting

1. Notes from previous meeting.

Following amendments these were approved for publication.



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

NAFD questioned the necessity & frequency for continued capacity returns from Funeral Directors while numbers are low. ICCM mentioned the apparent lack of interaction with the MHCLG and the issue of guidance which had been raised with the Local Government Association who had discussed the matter to the ICCM.

3. Direct Funeral Association

DMAG members were of a mind not to pursue this further at the present time. APCC agreed to draft a response to this effect to the promoters.

4. Electronic forms

The APCC advised of an issue which a funeral director had with their local crematorium with regard to the continuation of forms being delivered by electronic means.

Members agreed that electronic forms should continue to be accepted until such time that the Cabinet Office made changes. Crematorium Associations will notify their members accordingly.

5. CMA

Responses to the CMA's draft order must be submitted by 17th May 2021.

Funeral members are asking their Associations for document templates. SAIF await a final draft before amending their Code of Practice. Both NAFD & SAIF feel the implementation date is too soon and should be delayed. Also, both Associations have members concerns over the heavy penalties the Order could bring.

6. AOB

SAIF raised that the Cabinet Office asked DMAG to present a paper why funeral professionals should be categorised as essential workers in law in a crisis.

The Cabinet Office will be doing their 5 year review of the Civil Contingencies Act in 2022, so submitting a paper in June is timely. APCC suggested that a good basis to start on would be the FBCA's 'Lessons Learned' paper and APCC's 'Reflections on a Year of Covid' document. APCC will draft an outline programme of content after the next Cabinet Office meeting on 20th May so the most recent progress made by Central Government can be reflected. It has already been suggested that a separate meeting then be organised to progress the matter.

The next meeting is scheduled for 4pm Monday 24th May 2021 with the APCC in the chair.

