

Deceased Management Advisory Group

Update 21st June 2021

The members of DMAG held a video conference on 21st June 2021, with representatives from the Welsh Government (SC), Scottish Government (SG), Northern Ireland Government (NI) and Public Health England (PHE) present for the 'Open' part of the meeting. The Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities chaired the meeting.

Apologies were received from the Ministry of Justice representative.

DMAG Wider Consultation

1. SC Update

Changes had taken place in connection with the number attending wakes indoors, outdoors and at private residences. If a wake is conducted inside a private residence it is restricted to household members. Wakes taking place in regulated premises are subject to a risk assessment and must not exceed 30 persons.

Singing at services is now permitted but must be subject to a risk assessment.

2. SG Update

A review was about to commence into physical distancing, it was not yet clear what the outcome would look like. The representative enquired if the time lapse between death and funerals was still being monitored. It was confirmed that the Cabinet Office had indicated this information was no longer required so monitoring had ceased.

3. NI update

The Northern Ireland update had been delayed until 1st July 2021 at the earliest. The continuing spread of the 'Delta' variant would be monitored closely over the next 2 weeks. There had been no increase in the death rate.

4. PHE Update

It was important that wherever possible 2m social distancing must still be practiced. DMAG members offered to stress this information to the sector if requested. Funerals held in private homes are limited to a maximum of 6 people or 2 households. Supplementary Guidance was to be issued shortly; it was currently passing through the 'triple lock' clearing system in government.



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DMAG Closed Meeting

1. Notes from previous meeting.

These were approved for publication.

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

The only item for future meetings was the Category 2 Vaccination, to be discussed as the next item.

3. Category 2 Vaccination

It was recognised that with the possibility of future variants, as the virus mutates, it was important that members of the funeral sector are recognised as Category 2 workers to secure any future vaccination in a timely manner. It was completely unsatisfactory to have to argue the case for vaccination on each occasion. The paper being prepared by the APCC representative should be a balance of history, setting out what happened, along with our concerns about the potential disruption to burial and cremation provision if providers are not vaccinated.

Once the paper had been agreed it would be sent to the Cabinet Office, prior to our next meeting on 1st July, along with the 3 devolved administrations and the JCVI.

4. AOB

There were no matters arising.

Meetings will be held on 29th June 2021 with the APPG and the 1st July 2021 immediately following the Cabinet Office meeting, which will be chaired by the ICCM.

