

Deceased Management Advisory Group

Video Conference Agenda 30th September 2021

The members of DMAG held a video conference on 30th September 2021, with representatives from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ); Scottish Government (SG) and Northern Ireland Government (NI) present for the 'Open' part of the meeting. The FBCA chaired the meeting.

DMAG Wider Consultation

1. Northern Ireland (NI)

There is some concern that the high levels of infection remain constant. Excess deaths are currently 25 – 30% higher than the 5 year average. Discussions are currently taking place with the vaccination lead, Patricia Donnelly, to ensure the sector receiving the booster jab remains on the agenda.

2. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ)

The representatives of the sector were reminded that the UK Commission on Bereavement has called for evidence to be submitted.

The MoJ had, along with others, received an email from the National Federation of Cemetery Friends concerning the future of the Burial and Cremation Advisory Group (BCAG) and the role of DMAG, including reference to DMAG and its involvement in having the reuse of graves raised. It was pointed out it was the All Party Parliamentary Group, acting on behalf of specific organisations, that had raised the reuse of graves, not DMAG. It was agreed that DMAG would contact the MoJ with its views on BCAG when its members had discussed the matter.

3. Scottish Government (SG)

The infection rates in Scotland were coming down, however the NHS was still under significant pressure. A system requiring the production of a vaccine certificate to attend certain functions was being introduced on 1st October 2021, however it did not apply to gatherings relating to funerals or commemorative events. Members of the funeral sector can now register for booster jabs. It was



FBCA
Federation of Burial
& Cremation Authorities



The Cremation Society

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noted that this was extremely helpful and unfortunately nothing similar had been forthcoming in England.

DMAG Meeting

1. Notes from previous meeting.

The Cremation Society had previously circulated minutes and these were agreed.

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

The meeting with the Cabinet Office immediately prior to DMAG had covered several interesting points. It was agreed that it was important to stress to the Cabinet Office the need for consistency and central reporting in respect of the management of future pandemics and similar national emergencies. .

3. Vaccination booster

There had been no clear answer from the Cabinet Office over the sector receiving the vaccination booster. It was unlikely that an approach similar to Scotland would be adopted in England. It was felt best to advise members living in England to approach their own local health providers to seek a booster jab.

4. Fuel issues

It appeared that fuel availability was a mixed picture across the country with the Midlands and South East appearing to be the worst hit. There had been a disappointing response from the Cabinet Office where the issue had been raised earlier. It highlighted the need for the death care sector to continue pressing for recognition by central government to ensure it received an appropriate level of support.

5. Cremation Process Guidance notes seminar

The guidance notes covering the operation of crematoria are currently being reviewed in a process being led by the Environment Agency and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency. The review is likely to consider all aspects of the cremation process, including coffins, and its impact on the environment.



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It was suggested a one day event be arranged by the organisations representing crematoria to which everyone involved in the death care sector could attend. This would give the opportunity for members to discuss the review, areas of possible change and share learning on the environment. It was agreed that a one day event should be held, but that this should be a cremation associations' event rather than a DMAG event.

6. CMA

Discussion took place concerning the collection of additional data for the CMA which would indicate future moving average trends. It was decided to await a response from the CMA to the information already provided before taking this matter any further.

7. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

8. AOB Round robin

There were no items raised.



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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 21st October between 12:15 and 1:15p
be chaired by the ICCM.

