

# Deceased Management Advisory Group

**Update 20 January 2022**

The members of DMAG held a video conference on 20 January 2022, with representatives from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ); Welsh Government (SC), Scottish Government (SG), Northern Ireland Government (NI) present for the 'Open' part of the meeting. NAFD chaired the meeting.

## **DMAG Wider Consultation**

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

MOJ thanked APCC for the correspondence on the need for comprehensive communications on the introduction of the statutory Medical Examiners scheme in the Summer of 2022. MOJ agreed such communications were needed and confirmed that work was progressing on this.

### **2. Welsh Government (SC)**

SC updated DMAG on changes to Covid regulations and guidance in Wales, coming into force on 21 January. SC reported that the legal requirement for social distancing at venues would be removed, but venues would still need to be mindful of social distancing in their risk assessments under their general duty to take reasonable measures to prevent the transmission of Coronavirus.

SC would circulate the revised guidance.

### **3. Scottish Government (SG)**

SG referred to correspondence with DMAG members asking for feedback on the Covid 19 Strategic Framework. Members confirmed that they would respond in writing to this request.

SG reported that work would now progress on the regulation of funeral directors, with the Burial and Cremation Team being split into two workstreams: One would focus on inspections and licencing, the other on the Code of Practice and regulations. SG were looking to reconvene the Working Group on the Code of Practice, and a Working Group on Licencing Regulations would be formed shortly.

### **4. Northern Ireland (NI)**



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NI reported that the spread of the Omicron variant in NI was two weeks behind the rest of the UK. Infection rates were high, as were hospitalisations, but were not as high as originally feared. The NI Executive was meeting later in the day and was likely to announce changes to restrictions.

## DMAG Closed Meeting

### **1. Notes from previous meeting.**

The notes of the previous meeting were approved for publication.

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

DMAG agreed to invite the Cabinet Office to a special meeting in order to provide feedback on DMAG's priorities for 'lessons learned' during the pandemic. SAIF agreed to contact the Cabinet Office with a view to a meeting taking place by mid-February. DMAG would use its next meeting to discuss the matters it wished to feedback.

### **3. AOB Round Robin**

The Cremation Society requested that Professor Douglas Davies attend a DMAG meeting to discuss the research he was doing on the pandemic. DMAG agreed to invite Professor Davies to a future meeting.

