

# CPG for Funerals and Bereavement

## 12 November 2014

### Annual Meeting Minutes

#### **In Attendance:**

Stuart McMillan MSP  
Fiona McLeod MSP  
Nanette Milne MSP  
James Blackburn  
Mark Hazelwood  
Alan Slater

John Birrell  
Graeme Brown  
Ann McMurray  
Gerard Boyle  
David Beamer (Secretary)

#### **Item 1: Apologies**

Bob Doris MSP  
Malcolm Chisholm MSP  
Paul Cuthell  
Dom Maguire  
Nigel Lymn Rose  
Brian Gegan

#### **Item 2: Approval of Minutes from the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

#### **Item 3: Approval of Minutes from the last annual meeting**

The minutes of the last annual meeting were approved.

#### **Item 4: Election of Officers**

The following officers were re-elected:

Nanette Milne MSP (co-convener)  
Stuart McMillan MSP (co-convener)  
David Beamer (Secretary)

The Secretary agreed to complete the annual return for approval and submission by the co-convener.

#### **Item 5: Update**

An update was provided in the agenda items.

**Item 6: Death Certification developments**

Graeme Brown and James Blackburn outlined the steps being taken by the NAFD to publicise the new death certification system to be funeral industry in Scotland. The Group discussed the need to publicise the changes to all members of the Scottish Parliament. Fiona McLeod MSP suggested a meeting in the Scottish Parliament where the speakers attending the NAFD roadshow series could be invited to speak. The Group agreed to proceed with this meeting.

**Item 7: Infant Cremation Commission**

The Group welcomed the Scottish Government's response to the Infant Cremation Commission. The recommendations were discussed and Ann McMurray relayed the views and concerns of parents whose babies were cremated.

It was agreed to wait for draft legislation to be published by the Scottish Government before taking any further action.

**Item 8: Retained Ashes**

The Group discussed the need to address the matter of retained ashes and noted the Commission's report that the matter would be "encompassed in the pending broad burial and cremations legislation". Alan Slater highlighted the importance of finding a solution in Scotland now that progress had been achieved in England and Wales.

**Item 9: Funeral Poverty / Social Fund Support**

John Birrell stated that there was no definition of funeral poverty. A note from the Scottish Working Group on Funeral Poverty was circulated at the meeting and a discussion was held on its contents. John Birrell outlined the importance of funding bereavement services and there was hope that these services could be addressed in the new Bill. The cost of funerals were discussed and Alan Slater stated that the NAFD was in discussions with credit unions due to the shortfall that exists in the Social Fund funeral payments.

**Item 10: Ebola Preparation**

Guidance from the Department of Health entitled 'After Death Care' was reviewed. Alan Slater expressed concern about some of the ambiguities in the guidance and stated that the NAFD was working with the Department to improve the wording.

**Item 11: Date of future meetings**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting to focus on death certification developments and the Secretary would work with the co-conveners to publicise the event to all MSPs.

**Item 12: AOB**

Alan Slater stated that he would be retiring in the summer of 2015.