



Colleagues

We are aware that the Department of Health and Social Care remains committed to death certification reform and scrutiny of causes of deaths, to support the bereaved and enhance clinical governance. The Local Government Association/National Panel for Registration has been working with the Department to help inform the implementation of the reforms.

Whilst there remains a commitment to introduce medical examiners by April 2019, we understand that alternative options to host the medical examiner service are being explored and until there is more certainty about the plans and timescales for implementation it would seem sensible for councils not to invest any further resource at this stage pending further updates. The Local Government Association/National Panel for Registration have therefore informed the Department of Health and Social Care that they are advising local authorities to pause in their local preparation.

We will of course update you as soon as we have further information.

Best wishes

Donna Sharp

Chair of the National Panel for Registration