



Department  
of Health

## Introduction of Medical Examiners and Reforms to Death Certification Update Newsletter

July 2016

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Introduction of Medical Examiners and Reforms to Death Certification Newsletter. We have made some exciting progress since the last issue.

### Consultation

As you will know, the consultation on introducing medical examiners to the process of death certification closed on 15 June.

Encouragingly, we received more than 200 responses, which we are currently analysing.

Respondents widely welcomed introducing medical examiners into the death certification process.

Early indications show that the main theme emerging from the consultation concerned the level of the fee and whether it would sufficiently cover the costs of medical examiner service.

Some of the responses have helpfully provided local evidence which our analysts can use to update assumptions and re-estimate the fee.

### Changes to the Department of Health Ministerial Team



Following the recent reshuffle Jeremy Hunt returns as Secretary of State for Health and Lord Prior remains Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Lords.

Philip Dunne, Nicola Blackwood and David Mowat join the DH Ministerial Team in their new roles of Minister of State for the Health and Parliamentary Under Secretaries of State.

The Death Certification Reforms move into Lord Prior's Portfolio.



## Stakeholder engagement

Following its publication, the consultation was disseminated to thousands of interested individuals and organisations by our main partners via email, social media, newsletters and websites.

The Department of Health Death Certification Reforms Policy Team published summary documents to distil the consultation into a couple of pages with the main highlights and context, produced a summary overview booklet for use at events by partners, and wrote guest blogs for interested faith group partners to publish in their weekly newsletters.

Presentations at a number of national and regional events hosted by key partners provided the opportunity to highlight the consultation and for questions and discussion, and were used by external partners to deliver at their own events.

## Going forward

We aim to publish a summary of responses to the consultation later in the year. Timing will be influenced by the fact that we will need to secure approval from Ministers and the Home Affairs Committee and will hit upon the Party Conference season over September and October. It may therefore take slightly longer than the target three month timeframe to publish the response.

The Ministry of Justice consulted on the Cremation Regulations as part of the consultation; and are preparing their response, which will be incorporated in DH the response.

Please contact us at [DeathCertification@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:DeathCertification@dh.gsi.gov.uk) if you have any questions, comments or would like to discuss any aspect of the Death Certification Programme

## Coming up next

The Welsh Government will be consulting separately on the arrangements for appointing and funding medical examiners in Wales later this year

•••

Work is continuing:

- on the LA toolkit and checklist,
- the MCCD guidance,
- the prescribed information from doctors to MEs, and
- a revised programme governance structure

•••

We plan to reconstitute the Programme Governance arrangements soon and will be writing to respective members about this in the near future.

•••

Subject to HA clearance, the Regulations will be introduced to Parliament for debate and approval to enable progress towards implementation.