



Dear Colleagues,

ICCM Training

It is with regret that we have had to cancel all booked training courses for the next few months so that we can comply with Government guidance on social distancing. We will keep the situation under review, and will provide alternative dates as and when the situation allows. In the meantime, we are looking at possible alternatives, and would be keen to hear from any members who have a pressing need for training on a specific subject. Please email any topics that you would like us to provide some training on to ICCM Technical and Member Services Officer, Mathew Crawly, at mcrawly@instituteceemandcrem.com.

Cremation Society Questionnaire

Each year the Cremation Society circulates a questionnaire to crematoria to allow really useful statistics to be captured and shared. The information collated is of particular use during the current coronavirus outbreak as it helps the organisations to provide data for the Government to make decisions on. This year's questionnaire was sent out in January, but some haven't yet been returned. If you haven't received one, please let the Cremation Society know by emailing them at info@cremation.org.uk. If you have had the questionnaire but haven't completed it yet, please do so as soon as possible. We are aware that there are many pressing issues for you at this current time, but the statistics are vital in helping us plan for the coronavirus pandemic.

DEFRA – Periodic Monitoring of Crematoria Moratorium

The Air Quality and Industrial Emissions Team at DEFRA have issued the following statement: In light of the unprecedented Covid-19 situation that we are facing, we are providing the following advice regarding periodic monitoring of emissions from Crematoria in England:

- We advise a 3-month moratorium on periodic monitoring of crematoria (although we intend to review this in 2 months).
- Local Authorities can raise queries or concerns about this to Defra via the Control.Pollution@defra.gov.uk inbox, and specific issues can be assessed on a case by case basis.

We are aware that regulators require urgent guidance, as the 2019/20 annual emissions monitoring should be completed by end of March 2020. The minimum specified frequency of emissions testing forms part of Crematoria permits and these results are reported to the regulator as part of compliance. We are aware that, in some cases, testing by external emissions testing providers for the year 19/20 has yet to be completed.

As part of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic it is explicit government policy that people across the country should not be making journeys unless they are absolutely critical, and all unnecessarily interaction with other people should be avoided. To protect staff working in crematoria at this critical time, and those that may be required to carry out the periodic monitoring, we are informing local authorities to observe the 3-month moratorium. These measures are being taken to respond to the significant threat that is presently posed to public health.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email: Control.Pollution@defra.gov.uk.

ICCM Support During the Coronavirus Outbreak

We recognise the toll that the current situation could have on our members. To help with this we have provided a Wellbeing page on our website (<https://www.iccm-uk.com/iccm/wellbeing-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>), which contains resources to help with protecting physical and mental health.

We will continue to update the ICCM website as and when new information comes in, and to send out regular e-newsletters to keep members informed.

Officers are now working from home, but can continue to provide advice via phone and email. Contact details are available on the ICCM website - <https://www.iccm-uk.com/iccm/officers/>

Please continue to follow Government guidance and stay safe.