

For information only. Parts of this correspondence will have changed since its issue.

Dear Funeral Directors/arrangers

It is regrettable that I have to issue this further update, but it is necessary to ensure the continued safety of those who work in and visit our premises and for those who use our services.

We have had several instances where the restrictions put in place to limit the number of mourners at funerals have not been followed, including a gathering of 40 people who did not follow social distancing protocols or indeed guidance on public gatherings.

I am aware that this does not apply to the majority of funerals, but it seems that people may be becoming complacent with the necessary restrictions.

Please be reminded and continue to work with families to ensure that the following government guidance is adhered to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-a-funeral-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-a-funeral-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic>

Alongside the Funeral Director, Chapel Attendant, and funeral staff only the following should attend:

- members of the person's household
- close family members
- or if the above are unable to attend, close friends
- attendance of a celebrant of choice, should the bereaved request this

For the position of what is lawful, you should refer specifically to the [Regulations](#)

- mourners should also follow the advice on social distancing when travelling to and from the funeral gathering
- mourners who are self-isolating for 14 days due to someone in their household being unwell with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) but are not symptomatic themselves should be facilitated to attend the funeral in person should they wish to do so, with processes put in place to minimise the risk of transmission
- mourners who are clinically vulnerable or in a shielded group should also be facilitated to attend, with processes put in place to minimise the risk of transmission
- any mourner who is showing coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms (a new continuous cough or a high temperature) should not attend the funeral as they pose a risk to others; remote participation should be considered

For clarification, our local policy is a maximum of 10 mourners. This does not replace the government guidance and does not allow for family friends to attend.

It is not acceptable for other people to attend a funeral including:

- Arriving and waiting/gathering anywhere in the grounds
- Arriving and sitting in vehicles watching a webcast on mobile phones
- Friends/extended family attending burials at graveside

Further restrictions may be put in place if this continues to be an issue. Please continue to support us to ensure that the safety of staff and mourners remains a priority.

Thank you for you continued cooperation.

Take care and stay safe!

Kelvin.