

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_95_21

You asked:

- 1. Please will you provide details of costs associated with issuing Death Certificates for inpatient deaths leading to Cremation?**

Fee payable for cremation form 4 completion is £82

- 2. Have any changes been made to Death Certification during the Coronavirus Pandemic for NHS inpatient hospital deaths ---- please will you provide details both prior to, and following, any Coronavirus changes in the Death Certification process.**

Due to Coronavirus, there have been Corona virus easements under the emergency Corona Virus Act 2020. Section 19 considered the cremation process, primarily cremation form 5. As part of this, the need for a second confirmatory medical certification was removed; essentially removing the need for cremation form 5 to be completed.

The Medical Certificate of cause of death is scanned and e-mailed via a secure portal directly to the registrar.

- 3. Are any NHS Hospital Medical Professionals paid in a private capacity for completing any Hospital Death Certificates, please provide details.**

Yes, medical professionals completing cremation form 4 are paid the £82 fee.

- 4. Are all such private fees/payments made, accepted by the Medical Professional involved? Please can you indicate how many payments are not accepted?**

Yes the majority of fees are received by the medical professionals. We do not capture how many payments are not accepted.

- 5. Where such payments are not accepted by the Medical Professional completing the death certificates, are the costs reduced to the family/estate of the deceased patient.**

The funeral director nominated by the family pay the £82 fee to the medical professional. The health board has no way of knowing when the fee isn't collected and if the saving made is passed on to the family or estate from the funeral director.