

Freedom of Information Request	FOI 21-078	5 th March 2021
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1. **Please will you provide details of costs associated with issuing Death Certificates for inpatient deaths leading to Cremation?**

There is no charge for issuing a death certificate.

Where a family wishes to opt for a cremation two forms are usually required. The first is completed by the doctor completing the death certificate and the second form is completed by an independent practitioner who was not involved with the care of the deceased.

Completion of each of these forms attracts a fee, paid directly to the clinician, of £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.**

The Health Board has complied with changes made to the "The Cremation (England and Wales) Regulations 2008" made in March 2020 in response to the COVID epidemic. The changes remove the need for a confirmatory medical certificate (form 5) for cremations. The existing form 4 (medical certificate) is still required and this is completed as in normal circumstances.

3. **Are any NHS Hospital Medical Professionals paid in a private capacity for completing any Hospital Death Certificates, please provide details. Completion of Cremation forms is not part of core services. The fee for completion of cremation forms is paid directly to the practitioner.**

As you state in your question, completion of cremation forms is not part of core NHS services. A fee is paid to the practitioner completing cremation paperwork (please the response to question 1) and which is not set or regulated by the Health Board

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

The Health Board does record private payments to practitioners, however, the Care after Death team has indicated that some practitioners donate their fees to charity.

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:**

This does not form part of the Health Board core work and therefore we do not keep a record of this.