

Minister for Public Health and Women's Health  
Jenni Minto MSP

T: 0300 244 4000  
E: [scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)

To all Funeral Director Businesses  
operating in Scotland

20 February 2024

Dear Sir, Madam,

### Funeral Director Code of Practice

On 31 January 2024 the Funeral Director Code of Practice (“the Code”) was approved by the Scottish Parliament. A year-long grace period to become compliant with the Code is now in effect, and the Scottish Government intends to formally issue and bring the Code into force on **1 March 2025**. From the date of issue and coming into operation onwards, funeral directors must comply with the Code as is required by section 97 of the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016.

Please see the [Scottish Government website for the approved Code](#).

The Code has been developed under section 97 of The Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016, which provides a modern, comprehensive legislative framework for burial and cremation in Scotland. It aims to achieve three key outcomes:

- ensure minimum standards of care of the deceased;
- establish and promote a common understanding of good practice in relation to care of the deceased; and in doing so,
- help increase transparency of choice of goods and services to help people in Scotland to make informed decisions.

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG  
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

<https://www.nhsinform.scot>



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE

Accredited  
Until 2020



The Code has been developed in close collaboration with the funeral industry and other partners, to ensure the Code reflects established best practices in the industry, and that the intended outcomes of the Code are proportionate, pragmatic and justified. The Code has been available in draft form on the Scottish Government's website since 2019 and has been extensively consulted on. The [results of the public consultation](#) held in June – September 2019 can be found on the Scottish Government website. Further information about industry engagement during development of the Code can be found in the [Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment](#) considered by Parliament.

### What this means for you

The Code, once issued and in operation, will apply to all funeral directors carrying out the functions of a funeral director in Scotland regardless of where their business is based. We encourage all funeral directors to carefully read the Code and ensure they are fully compliant with the Code, by the intended issue date of **1 March 2025**. From the date of issue onwards, **if you are a funeral director in Scotland you must comply with the Code.**

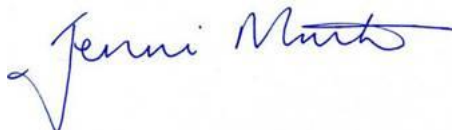
This is the first major step in the regulation of the funeral director industry in Scotland. In future, it is intended that funeral director businesses will be inspected against the standards within the Code with appropriate steps to be available to inspectors for the purpose of ensuring compliance. Further, that applications for funeral director business licences, should such a licensing scheme be made by Scottish Ministers, will be considered in relation to their compliance with the Code.

The Code does not negate the responsibility of funeral directors to adhere to other legislation and guidance, for example that relates to health and safety or environmental concerns.

I hope this information is helpful in informing you of this important step in funeral sector regulation in Scotland. If you wish to be kept informed of further progress and other related news from the Scottish Government, please subscribe to our [funeral industry blog](#).

If you have any questions regarding any aspect of the Code or require further information, then please contact the Scottish Government at: [ceu@gov.scot](mailto:ceu@gov.scot) or post: Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG (for the attention of the Burial and Cremation Team).

Yours faithfully,



**Jenni Minto MSP**

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG  
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

<https://www.nhsinform.scot>



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE

Accredited  
Until 2020

