Fife Council

Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Bill

Overall the updating and revising of the legislation currently in place for burial and cremations is welcomed and should be developed in such a way to ensure supportive and definitive guidance for all operators of burial and cremation facilities.

In relation to the specific points to be considered for the call for written evidence, Fife Council would respond as follows:

1. **General Principles:** Fife Council welcomes the objective to put new legislation in place. It is important to modernise the legislative framework but in a way that supports all stakeholders implicated in the legislation by giving clear guidance on all aspects and removing any areas of ambiguity;

2. **Applications for Burial:** Fife Council supports fully the introduction of a standardised application for burial and the provisions proposed in Section 8;

3. **Meaning of cremation/ashes:** Fife Council supports the clear definition of ‘ashes’;

4. **Applications for Cremation:** Fife Council supports the creation of a single application form to cover all cremations. The design and layout of such an application will be of utmost importance to ensure that it is completed properly by applicants.

5. **Duty to maintain cremation register:** Fife Council supports the proposal for a single register of cremations containing prescribed information for each cremation carried out;

6. **Relatives’ decision on disposal of remains:** Fife Council supports the proposal to clarify ‘nearest relatives’ but would like to see some guidance in the event that through the equality of the right to decide an agreement cannot be reached by the involved parties.

7. **Disposing of remains from pregnancy loss at or before twenty-fourth week:** Fife Council supports the proposal within sections 50-53 regarding arrangements for the disposal of pregnancy loss;

8. **Disposal of remains by Health Authorities:** Fife Council supports the proposal with section 54 placing a duty on the appropriate health authority to dispose of the remains where no arrangements have been made at or prior to 24 weeks of pregnancy;

9. **Register of disposal of Remains:** Fife Council supports the proposal for each health authority to maintain a register recording the disposal of remains when pregnancy loss occurs at or before the twenty-fourth week.
The remaining Parts of the Bill are supported by Fife Council.

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