Police Scotland

Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Bill

In relation to Sections 50 – 55 of the Bill, which details the actions of those bereaved and Health Authorities, the bill is clear in the requirements placed on individuals and organisations.

Previous investigations have highlighted the fact that the guidance and information provided to bereaved families at the time of death or loss, particularly in the case of pregnancy loss, still birth or infants, differed significantly across health authorities, counselling services and funeral services.

In order to ensure consistency and future proof the legislation it is suggested that there is a duty placed on the relevant organisations to detail what information they provided including the version number of any literature. It would also be of benefit to any future investigation or litigation that copies of all literature and information is retained in line with the legislation.

It is recognised that at the time of loss, the information provided to bereaved persons may not be fully understood or even retained by them. It is imperative that the information provided is recorded in a manner that can be subsequently accounted for and checked at the event of any future complaint or dispute.

Police Scotland