Co-operative Funeralcare

Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Bill

On the answers to the questions raised by the Committee:

1. General Principles

The Co-operative Funeralcare agrees with the general principles of the Bill and would support the requirement to replace outdated legislation.

2. Applications for Burials

The Co-operative Funeralcare supports the introduction of standard applications for burial being a legislative requirement.

3. Meaning of Cremation/Ashes

It is important that alternative methods of disposal should be included in the Bill to allow new technologies such as Resomation to be utilised in the future without the need to amend the legislation. The Co-operative Funeralcare believe Resomation has proven to be an economically viable, safe and environmentally more sustainable option to flame cremation as per our submission to the initial consultation on a proposed Bill.

The Co-operative Funeralcare support the definitions of cremation and ashes used.

4. Applications for Cremation

The Co-operative Funeralcare do not support the introduction of a single form for all cremations.

There should be standard forms for:

1. Any product of conception or non-viable foetus.
2. Post 24 weeks (stillbirth)
3. All live births and subsequent deaths.

As suggested by the committee, information around the fact that it may not be possible to recover ashes in the case of some infants should be included on relevant forms. Application forms for all cremations should be a statutory requirement and should be consistent across all Crematoria & NHS trusts.

5. Duty to Maintain Cremation Register

The Co-operative Funeralcare support the creation of a single register at crematoria.
6. Relatives Decision on Disposal of Remains

The Co-operative Funeralcare supports the need for clarity over which relatives should be allowed to arrange for the disposal of remains in the event of a child’s death or still-birth.

7. Disposing of Remains from Pregnancy Loss At Or Before Twenty-Forth Week

The Co-operative Funeralcare support the specifications of the Bill in this respect.

8. Disposal of Remains by Health Authorities

The Co-operative Funeralcare support the provision of a duty on health authorities in this regard.

9. Register of Disposal of Remains

The Co-operative Funeralcare support the implementation of a register by health authorities.

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