



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Social Justice and Social Security Committee

Andrew Judd
Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Funeral Directors

27 November 2025

Dear Mr. Judd,

Funeral Expenses Payment: Request for Information

The Social Justice and Social Security Committee is currently undertaking a review of the Funeral Expenses Payment. As a member of the Cross-Party Group on Funerals and Bereavement, we believe your organisation's insight and experience could provide valuable context to support the Committee's scrutiny of this benefit.

The Funeral Expenses Payment offers vital support to households on low incomes who face the financial burden of funeral costs. In 2024-25, there were 8,540 applications for the benefit, with a reported take-up rate of 61%.

We would be grateful for any data or analysis you are able to share on behalf of your members, particularly in relation to:

- Good practice examples which enable people to access the Funeral Expenses Payment;
- Challenges experienced in connection with the Funeral Expenses Payment;
- Any concerns or data regarding fraud or misuse of funds by recipients;
- Initiatives aimed at increasing awareness or improving uptake of the benefit.

The Committee is aware of the [East Ayrshire Respectful Funeral Service](#) model, where the local authority works in partnership with funeral directors to raise awareness of the benefit and simplify the application process for eligible households. We would welcome your views on this approach.

We would be grateful to receive your response to the above by **Friday 8th January**.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Doris MSP

Contact: Social Justice and Social Security Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email SJSS.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

Deputy Convener
Social Justice and Social Security Committee