



A monthly review of news and events from within the bereavement sector



This year's statistics issue of Pharos International is now available and has been posted to subscribers in the last few days. We would like to thank all those who provided their information, which enables us to publish this information for the sector. The statistics issue is available as part of a subscription to Pharos International which can be ordered via [The Cremation Society's website](#).

Wendy Buchan
Executive Officer & Secretary to
The Cremation Society

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

The first images of how the proposed crematorium in **Glenrothes** could look have been made available. A planning application for the proposed facility in the Southfield area of the town has been lodged with **Fife Council**. Dignity PLC are proposing the new facility as well as memorial gardens and a Construction Skills Academy. The single-storey crematorium and administrative offices would be located within landscaped memorial gardens and the chapel will have state-of-the-art equipment to enable families to personalise services. It's anticipated 120 new jobs would be created from the Skills Academy, whilst a further 10-15 new jobs would be created by the new crematorium. However, the plans have already met with opposition from some residents. Dignity PLC said it would be willing to discuss the development and potential environmental concerns voiced by locals. **Mark Williams**, Dignity's Property & Logistics Director, said: "The latest cremator technology will be installed to comply with all current environmental legislation and the standards required by the **Scottish Environmental Protection Agency** (SEPA). In addition to ensuring that emissions are stringently clean, our cremation equipment allows energy to be recovered and used to heat the building rather than being wasted by venting to the atmosphere." As part of their justification for a new crematorium, Dignity also advise that National Records of Scotland (NRS) predict that in five years time there will be more deaths each year in Scotland than in 2020 at the height of the pandemic. Plans are expected to go before Fife Council for determination in the coming months. To read the full article, please go to: [**The Courier Evening Telegraph website**](#)



An artist's impressions of how the Glenrothes crematorium could look.

Images: Dignity Plc

NEWS REVIEW



CREMATORIA NEWS

Northern Ireland's third crematorium will be located in **Moira**. More than 3,000 burial plots could also be added to the crematorium plan as Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council's graveyard spaces look to reach full capacity by next year. The £1m proposal is for a cemetery extension and ancillary works including landscaping, internal access roads, and a railway underpass near the Lisnabilla Road, Moira. Until recently, only one crematorium – Roselawn – operated in Northern Ireland and is within the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council boundary. Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council opened Northern Ireland's second crematorium on the Doagh Road, Newtownabbey, in June following a £5m investment by the local authority. Planning permission for the Moira crematorium has already been granted at **Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council**, with the intention that it will be privately operated. Though a plot of land has been cleared in the area, it is not known how advanced the plans are. The public consultation on the cemetery extension plans to the Moira crematorium, which could require an environmental impact report, will take place at Maghaberry community centre on September 20th. To read the full article, please visit the: **[Belfast Telegraph website](#)**.

A **Court of Session** bid has been raised by a local objector aiming to halt the building of a new crematorium in **Angus**. Paul Dixon has gone to Scotland's highest civil court to appeal the decision of Angus councillors in March, which cleared the way for farmer Guthrie Batchelor's project at **Duntrune**, on the border with Dundee. At that time, the council's development management review committee overturned a 2021 ruling by officers taken under delegated powers to block the bid. There were more than 700 objections to the £3 million scheme. Now, nearby resident Mr Dixon has launched the legal challenge in a last-ditch attempt to stop it going ahead. The case is in its early stages in the Inner House of the Court of Session. The appeal is seeking the court to consider a number of important questions around the DMRC decision. The DMRC is a five-strong sub-committee of the council which considers appeals against delegated decisions taken by council officers. Mr Batchelor, says he hopes the crematorium will be open by the end of 2024, stating that: "We have a planning approval in place and are continuing to progress the crematorium project." For more information on this article: please visit: **[The Courier Evening Telegraph website](#)**.

ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR FUNERALS AND BEREAVEMENT

The **All-Party Parliamentary Group for Funerals and Bereavement** has recently addressed two key areas facing the sector, in its recent online and in-person meetings. The Group (funded by the **Deceased Management Advisory Group**) met in Westminster in May, with representatives from across the funeral sector. The purpose of the meeting was to meet with the Law Commission's team who are responsible for the Commission's project which will review the laws surrounding the 'disposal' and care of the deceased. The team heard submissions from organisations, including **The Cremation Society**, covering many areas that are long overdue for review including the re-use of graves, the entitlement to unclaimed ashes held by funeral directors, the legal status of the expression of funeral wishes in wills, the increasing instances of disputes in families where family members are not notified of a loved one's cremation, and the legal entitlement to ashes by family members or executors.

The Group also met online in July to discuss the environmental challenges facing the funeral sector, including the introduction of alternative funerary methods. **Brendan Day** of the **FBCA** presented on the challenges surrounding the lack of burial space, the impact of cremation and the steps currently being taken by the sector to ensure the environmental impact of funerals is reduced wherever possible. It was noted that the progress of the review of the Process Guidance notes for crematoria had been slow, and the Group's Chair, **Sir John Hayes MP** agreed that this would be raised with **Defra**.

The Group will next meet online in October to discuss 'bereavement services and support'.

Deceased Management
Advisory Group



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