

ANNEX B

CONSULTATION RESPONSE TEMPLATE FORM

Please remember to return your response along with the Respondent Information Form at **Annex A**

Question 1: Do you agree that the “not staying registration” (expedited) procedure should only apply in situations where there is a clear rationale for a funeral to proceed within a specific timescale?

Please tick as appropriate X Yes No

Additional Comments:

Argyll and Bute Council agrees that the expedited procedure should be applied only in exceptional cases.

Question 2: Do you agree that the role of the registrar is to make informants aware, in response to a request, of the “not staying registration” (expedited) procedure?

Please tick as appropriate X Yes No

Additional Comments:

As trained professionals dealing with the registration of deaths it makes sense for Registrars to fulfil this role. We agree that registrars should not recommend or suggest this procedure, but just advise that the procedure is available in certain restricted circumstances.

Question 3: Do you agree that there would be value in having a form for informants to complete in circumstances where the “not staying registration” (expedited) procedure is requested?

Please tick as appropriate X Yes No

Additional Comments:

We strongly agree with the need for a standard form as it would give a framework, clear guidance, avoid confusion and make sure that comprehensive information is provided to the Medical Reviewer to make a decision, and will reduce the number of occasions where they need further information, and would therefore make the process easier for the informant.

Question 4: Do you agree that these proposed timescales will ensure the system will meet the needs of informants in those circumstances where there is a clear rationale for the funeral to proceed within a specific timescale?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No

Additional Comments:

The Medical Reviewers and Medical Reviewer Assistants will be well aware of the importance of timescales to informants. If the Medical Reviewer requires further information before making a decision, there needs to be a clear process for this to be provided quickly and the proposals are currently silent on how this will be handled in practice. It is important that the procedures address this in order that the timescales are met.

Question 5: Do you agree that it would be useful to set down in Guidance, and on the proposed form, the sort of categories where it may be appropriate to request that registration is not stayed (expedited procedure)?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No

Additional Comments:

Yes we agreed that it is vital that, from an early stage, informants have guidance on what categories/in which circumstances it may be appropriate to request when registration is not stayed (expedited). However as the categories will not be exhaustive, further guidance will be required to be given to Registrars as to how to deal with requests which do not obviously fall into any of the listed categories.

Question 6: Do you agree with these categories, and is there anything additional that should be added?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No

Additional Comments:

The categories proposed all appear appropriate. At this stage we are unable to suggest any further categories but we suggest that some flexibility is provided to extend the categories following the introduction of this new process.

Question 7: Do you agree that these approaches are sensible? Is there anything else that should be considered in relation to guidance around the procedure not to stay registration (expedited procedure)?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No

Additional Comments:

We agree that these proposals are sensible. However the most important factor is to ensure that guidance and training materials are available to registrars in good time to ensure that they are well equipped to provide this service to informants. We suggest that the training material is trialled with the test sites if this hasn't happened already. We are confident that Registrars will be able to provide a high quality service to informants who will be faced with a difficult and trying situation, provided they receive appropriate training and guidance. Registrars are already trained to deal with requests for dispensations for marriage which in turn mean they are used to dealing with a procedure in which they have to take a neutral stance on a decision making process.