

**DIRECTION UNDER Paragraph 2(2) of SCHEDULE 14 (Review of medical certificates of cause of death and cremations: Scotland) OF THE CORONAVIRUS ACT 2020 (C.7)**

The Scottish Ministers being of the view that the incidence or transmission of coronavirus constitutes a serious and imminent threat to public health, and that the exercise of the powers conferred by paragraph 2 of schedule 14 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 (“the 2020 Act”) will be an effective means of expediting the disposal of bodies and better utilise medical resources, having consulted the senior medical reviewer as required by paragraph 2(3) of that schedule, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by paragraph 2(2) of the schedule of the 2020 Act DIRECT that—

(a) the referral of medical certificates of cause of death for review under section 24A of the Births, Deaths and Marriages (Scotland) Act 1965,

(b) the right of an interested person to apply for a review of a medical certificate of cause of death under section 4(1) of the Certification of Death (Scotland) Act 2011 (“the 2011 Act”), and

(c) the review of medical certificates of cause of death under section 8(1) of the 2011 Act,

are suspended with effect from 14:00 on 26 March 2020.

The effect of this direction on existing reviews under the 2011 Act is set out in paragraphs 3 to 5 of schedule 14 of the 2020 Act.

This Direction will be in effect until revoked by Direction of the Scottish Ministers under paragraph 2 of schedule 14 of the 2020 Act.

Signed by

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe FitzPatrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Mr Joe FitzPatrick  
Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing**

26 March 2020