

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference Fol/21/069
Hospital Death Certification Costs During Covid-19

Request details

- 1. Please will you provide details of costs associated with issuing Death Certificates for inpatient deaths leading to Cremation?**

For every death that requires a form for cremation the signing doctor is paid a fee of £82.00. There is no cost associated with the completion of a certificate of cause of death.

- 2. Have any changes been made to Death Certification during the Coronavirus Pandemic for NHS inpatient hospital deaths ---- please will you provide details both prior to, and following, any Coronavirus changes in the Death Certification process.**

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic a form for cremation required signatures from two doctors, and the fee would be paid to both. Recent new legislation now only requires one doctor to sign.

- 3. Are any NHS Hospital Medical Professionals paid in a private capacity for completing any Hospital Death Certificates, please provide details.**
- 3.2 Are all such private fees/payments made, accepted by the Medical Professional involved. Please can you indicate how many payments are not accepted.**
- 3.3 Where such payments are not accepted by the Medical Professional completing the death certificates, are the costs reduced to the family/estate of the deceased patient.**

All payments are issued by cheque directly to the doctors and are held for 6 months for them to collect from the cashier's office. After this time any cheques not collected are returned to the relevant funeral home. Once returned it is down to the funeral homes discrepancy how any costs are reduced.