



Funeral Furnishing Manufacturing Association (FFMA)
11 Fentham Close, Hampton in Arden, Solihull, West Midlands B92 0BE

Scottish Office
St Andrews House
Regent Road
Edinburgh

Dated 18th December 2015

Re: Scottish Office FFMA Evidence letter dated 26th November 2015

Dear Sir or Madam,

Following the submission of the above letter and its enclosed Excel spreadsheet, the FFMA, and in particular all members of the FFMA coffin certification testing programme working party, would like to take the opportunity to clarify a few points contained within the above referenced letter.

The FFMA's research into the volumes of ash depending on the size of the deceased, the size and type of coffin, highlighted the need to provide clearer guidance to the industry on the varying volume of cremulated remains to be returned to the families.

As part of the FFMA's coffin and casket testing programme, we will be collecting and collating data based on our initial and continuing research. From this data, our aim is to provide clear guidance to professionals within the industry on the correlation between the deceased size, and size and type of the coffin or casket and the approximate volume of ash after cremation and cremulation.

The FFMA accepts and would like to apologise, that the language used in the above letter could be misinterpreted to imply malpractice within the industry concerning the returning of ashes to families. This was never our intention. We would also retract the statement relating to the Lord Bonomy enquiry that a formal review of cremation practice be undertaken as this again could be interpreted as inferred malpractice in the past. Again this was not the intention.

With the continued positive input from the relevant cremation authorities, the FFMA believes the coffin and casket testing programme, now up and running, will provide clearer guidance to the industry on the suitability of coffins and caskets for cremation, and further guidance on the volumes of cremated remains to be returned, so families can make an informed choice on the type of urn to be used for the cremated remains.

Please accept this letter, as an addendum to the above referenced letter, as we know the research we have done is useful to your review, and we cannot amend or re-submit the original letter.

Yours sincerely

David Crampton
Chairman
FFMA