



## **Legislation and H&S report - June 2023**

A few items of note in terms of legislation that should be of interest to our members.

### **1. DELAY TO MEDICAL EXAMINER INTRODUCTION**

The government has confirmed the full introduction of the statutory medical examiner system in England will now commence from April 2024, a delay of twelve months from the original implementation date of April 2023.

In her statement to Parliament, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Maria Caulfield added:-

The changes will put all of the medical examiner system's obligations, duties and responsibilities on to a statutory footing and ensure they are recognised by law. For example, it will be a legal requirement that medical examiners scrutinise all non-coronial deaths. This will help to deter criminal activity and poor practice, increase transparency and offer the bereaved an opportunity to raise concerns.



Full article available here



I would highlight to our members that as many of you will know from our experience with the trials that are already in place with non-coronial deaths in our NHS hospital setting, that I suspect we should expect and be prepared for a delay between time of death to the GP being able to issue a MCCD, taking into account scrutiny and conversations to be had by the examiner and families for all deaths in the community.

### **2. RETURN TO REMOTE REGISTRATION MOVES CLOSER**

The ability to register deaths remotely I think we can all agree was one of the positive outcomes of the Coronavirus Act 2020, and was something that the funeral profession, Government and consumers all expressed a desire to protect. Though without legislation it ended in April 2022, despite a private bill being brought it was unable to get the traction needed to get passed through Parliament. A new more robust and secure attempt has been brought forward via the new Department for Science, Innovation and Technology the first bill read in March and awaits the Second reading.

We appreciate the hard work in lobbying and bringing this much needed modernisation back into consideration by colleagues at the National Office.



Full article available here.

Lastly we should continue to be mindful of the ongoing Fuller review as we await the full outcome, as members we must always adhere to high professional standards for our those resting within our care, and ensure secure access to mortuaries restricted to authorised persons at all times.