



Ministry
of Justice

Mike Freer MP

Minister for Courts and Legal Services
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Simon Hoare MP

Minister for Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

24th May 2024

Dear Fran

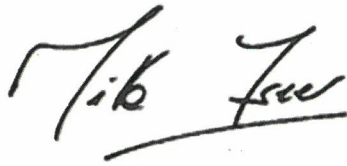
Funeral home inspections

Thank you for your letter dated 2 May. We were encouraged by your appreciation of the need to proactively address potential issues in the funeral sector and that Environmental Health Officers stand ready to assist. We know the vital role Environmental Health Officers played during the Covid pandemic, and we are very grateful, thank you.

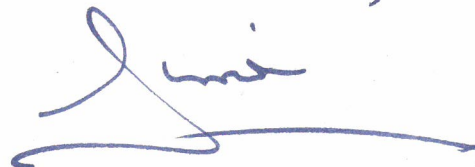
Whilst we understand that resourcing these visits will be challenging, this remains a short term ask and as such, no additional funding has been made available. However, I hope you agree that this is the right step to take to help reassure communities.

We understand that visiting funeral directors will be new to many EHOs and we are committed to providing support and guidance to ensure these visits are undertaken with confidence. Thank you for your kind offer of support on this work, however we have already planned two webinars, and developed supporting guidance, in collaboration with a range of experts in the funeral sector including the National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD) and the National Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors (SAIF). We are confident this will provide all the information needed by EHOs to conduct these visits.

As, as you have noted, Government is carefully considering the range of possible routes for the potential introduction of a more robust structure for regulating funeral directors. We would welcome your views on this area of work and Ministry of Justice officials will be in touch in due course to discuss this further.

Handwritten signature of Mike Freer in black ink, featuring a stylized 'M' and 'F'.

MIKE FREER MP
Minister for Courts and Legal Services

Handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Simon Hoare'.Handwritten signature of Simon Hoare in blue ink, with a long horizontal flourish at the bottom.

SIMON HOARE MP
Minister for Local Government