

## For Publication

### Bereavement Services Manager's Report

<b>Meeting:</b>	Chesterfield and District Joint Crematorium Committee
<b>Date:</b>	20 March 2023
<b>For publication</b>	

#### 1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To keep Members informed of matters relating to the day-to-day operation of the Crematorium.

#### 2.0 Cremation Figures

- 2.1 This part of the report details cremation service totals, comparisons and from which constituent area funerals have been received from.

	CBC	WEST	NEDDC	BDC	AV	OUTSIDE
APR-FEB 2019/20	842	108	554	272	5	139
APR-FEB 2020 /21	1007	130	644	293	20	192
APR-FEB 2021/22	897	167	604	267	5	152
APR-FEB 202223	966	115	577	236	15	181

	CJCC Cremations	Derbyshire Registered Deaths	England and Wales Registered Deaths
APR – JAN 2019/20	1728	6970	442,684
APR – JAN 2020/21	2009	8006	530,536
APR – JAN 2021/22	1889	7236	457,951

APR – JAN 2022/23	1876	7,849	495,143
----------------------	------	-------	---------

### 3.0 **Annual Air Emissions Monitoring Report**

- 3.1 The Manager has received results from the annual air emissions monitoring report in January. A summary of the report is attached at Appendix 1. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) issues Statutory Guidance for Crematoria (Process Guidance Note 5/2 (12)). It is a requirement of the Statutory Guidance that annual independent stack emission testing is undertaken to measure Total Particulate Matter, Carbon Monoxide, Organic Compounds, Oxygen, Hydrogen Chloride and Mercury.
- 3.2 Reassuringly, the concentration results were below DEFRA’s limits on all substances and parameters.

### 4.0 **Service of Remembrance and Open Day**

- 4.1 The 2023 Service of Remembrance and Open Day will take place on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June. This will be the first event since before the Covid Pandemic and significant interest is expected, which may lead to another event planned in September 2023.
- 4.2 The Service of Remembrance is primarily for people who wish to remember a friend or relative and will be led by professional Funeral Celebrants.
- 4.3 The Open Day is an opportunity to look behind the scenes at the workings of the Crematorium which may dispel any worries or myths about the cremation process. It is also an opportunity to ask questions about the funeral process in general, search historical records, discuss options for the disposal of cremated remains or how to commemorate a loved one.

### 5.0 **Introduction of the Medical Examiner Scheme**

- 5.1 Currently, the Medical Referee visits the crematorium to inspect and scrutinise all the official medical certified documentation regarding the deceased. In particular, the Medical Referee must be satisfied that;
- the applicant is entitled to sign and complete form Cremation 1
  - All questions have been answered by Medical Practitioners completing form Cremation 4
  - Cause of death is ascertained and proper

Once satisfied, the Medical Referee orders written consent that a cremation can take place. Without this consent, the cremation cannot proceed. The Crematorium collects the fee for the Medical Referee and pays them through the Lead Authorities Payroll (there is no employment contract in place).

- 5.2 The Ministry of Justice has confirmed that it is the Government's intention to work towards implementing the statutory medical examiner system **from** April 2023. The Ministry of Justice has also confirmed that it will keep the current Medical Referee role for a transitional period following the implementation of the statutory medical examiner system, in order to ensure continuity and provide the opportunity for any necessary consequential changes to be identified. They will provide further clarity on when the transitional period will begin and its duration as soon as possible. They have advised that there will be no sudden 'cliff edge' and that they will continue to work with the sector on the implementation of the reforms to the death certification process.
- 5.3 Medical Examiners will be employed by NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts. Once the Medical Examiner Scheme is fully operational, it will replace the Medical Referee at the Crematorium. From this point, there will no longer be a Medical Referee Fee to pay and £21.00 should be deducted from the Cremation Fee.
- 5.4 The role of Medical Examiner and Medical Referee are similar, however, the purpose of introducing Medical Examiners is explained in the NHS England Website here [NHS England » The national medical examiner system](#)

In summary the purpose of the changes are to;

- provide greater safeguards for the public by ensuring independent scrutiny of all non-coronial deaths
- ensure the appropriate direction of deaths to the coroner
- provide a better service for the bereaved and an opportunity for them to raise any concerns to a doctor not involved in the care of the deceased
- improve the quality of death certification
- improve the quality of mortality data.

The Manager will give further updates at future Committee Meetings.

## 6.0 **Recommendations**

That the report is noted.

## **Document information**

<b>Report author</b>
----------------------

***Bereavement Services Manager  
c/o Chesterfield and District Crematorium***

**Background documents**

These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.

N/A

**Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1	Annual Emission Testing Summary

**Appendix 1**

## Monitoring Results

where MU = Measurement Uncertainty associated with the result (95% Confidence)

Substance	Limit (mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Concentration		Reference Conditions	Limit (g/hr)	Mass Emission		Sampling Date	Sampling Times	
		Result (mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Measurement Uncertainty (MU) +/-			Result (g/hr)	Measurement Uncertainty (MU) +/-			
Total Particulate Matter	R1	20	3.1	0.18	273k, 101.3kPa, Dry, 11% O <sub>2</sub>	-	19.8	1.5	10/11/2022	09:02-10:02
	R2		4.9	0.19			30.7	1.9	10/11/2022	10:23-11:23
	R3		3.8	0.18			23.7	1.6	10/11/2022	11:31-12:31
	Ave		3.9	0.18			24.7	1.7	-	-
Carbon Monoxide	R1	100	9.4	5.5	273k, 101.3kPa, Dry, 11% O <sub>2</sub>	-	59	34.7	07/09/2022	09:02-10:02
	R2		1.6	5.5			10.3	34.5	08/09/2022	10:23-11:23
	R3		10.5	5.5			66	34.7	08/09/2022	11:31-12:31
	Ave		7.2	5.5			45.0	34.6	-	-
Total VOC	R1	20	0.51	1.5	273k, 101.3kPa, Dry, 11% O <sub>2</sub>	-	3.2	9.5	07/09/2022	09:02-10:02
	R2		0.78	1.5			4.9	9.5	08/09/2022	10:23-11:23
	R3		1.0	1.5			6.4	9.5	08/09/2022	11:31-12:31
	Ave		0.77	1.5			4.8	9.5	-	-
Oxygen	R1	-	13.4%	0.21	As Measured (Dry)	-	-	-	07/09/2022	09:02-10:02
	R2		13.9%	0.21			-	-	08/09/2022	10:23-11:23
	R3		15.0%	0.22			-	-	08/09/2022	11:31-12:31
	Ave		14.1%	0.21			-	-	-	-
Chloride (as HCl)	R1	30	2.3	0.18	273k, 101.3kPa, Dry, 11% O <sub>2</sub>	-	14.4	1.3	10/11/2022	09:02-10:02
	R2		9.7	0.77			60.7	5.6	10/11/2022	10:23-11:23
	R3		16.2	1.3			102	9.4	10/11/2022	11:31-12:31
	Ave		9.4	0.75			59.0	5.5	-	-
Mercury	R1	0.05	0.03	0.003	273k, 101.3kPa, Dry, 11% O <sub>2</sub>	-	0.16	0.02	10/11/2022	12:45-13:57
	R2		0.01	0.001			0.05	0.01	10/11/2022	13:53-14:53
	R3		0.04	0.01			0.24	0.01	10/11/2022	15:12-16:12
	Ave		0.02	0.003			0.15	0.01	-	-
Volumetric Flow	R1	-	6,292 m <sup>3</sup> /h	299	273k, 101.3kPa, Dry, 11% O <sub>2</sub>	-	-	-	10/11/2022	08:50-08:55

Reference conditions (REF) are: 273K, 101.3kPa, Dry, 11% O<sub>2</sub>.