

Dear Sirs,

Firstly I welcome finally the Government interest and actions in recognising that the funeral industry does actually exist, we do seem to have been somewhat overlooked for many years and maybe now are being recognised as a valuable and very necessary business within the UK.

I give the below response to some items within the document as requested.

Firstly throughout the document you refer incorrectly to internments and should read **INTERMENTS**

Prohibited Practices.

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Coroners Removals I note that no referral is made to any solicitation made at the time of the removal from the place of death and particularly if from a private residency is forbidden. If this is not stated I believe it is open to abuse by the contractors employed by the authority.

If they are allowed to leave brochures/business or contact cards (As many do at present) should this not be accompanied by a full price list as shown in all business offices as per your requirement.

(added to this my belief is that when contracts are awarded they should also come under CMA scrutiny to avoid any illegal practices such as inducements by way of very reduced charges/invoices made to the issuing authority for the services they provide. A purely commercial decision is made at the time contracts are awarded by those companies wishing to tender, but in many instances the issuing authority do not advertise that the contract or tender is in the public domain thereby excluding other business's from tendering, which I consider could lead to companies abusing the bereaved in influencing their decision or choice by the position awarded by local authorities.

Page 28 Schedule A Minimum Standards

Standardised price list with coffins, are you aware that not all Natural Burial Grounds will accept standard Wood Veneer coffins, and will only allow other types of coffins specifically not chipboard or veneered/polished coffins to be used for burial. They will allow only specific materials within their sites, this does have an impact on coffin prices and as such standardised packages would not be available to customers wishing a natural burial in some places.

The document does not identify how, when, how regularly and by whom the inspections to ensure compliance will take place or be made, will it be industry or

government led? and, if so will there be any charges for inspections, compliance notices or timescale of regularity for these to take place?

Yours sincerely

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