



Deputy Michael Healy-Rae TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

01.06.22

**Re: PQ - 21919/22 & PQ 22100/22 & 21921/22 & 21922/22– Care of the Deceased
Guidelines**

To ask the Minister for Health if he will address a matter (details supplied) in relation to the fact funeral directors in Ireland are not communicating to bereaved families the updated HSE guidelines dated May 2021 on the care of the deceased in circumstances in which Covid-19 was a contributory factor in their death; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Healy-Rae

To ask the Minister for Health if he will address a matter (details supplied) in relation to the fact that funeral directors in Ireland are not communicating to bereaved families the updated HSE guidelines dated May 2021 on the care of the deceased in circumstances in which Covid-19 has been a contributory factor in their death; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Healy-Rae

To ask the Minister for Health if he will engage in a public information campaign on the care of the deceased in cases in which Covid-19 was a contributory factor in a death (details supplied) to ensure that persons are made aware of the new guidelines and that the restrictions which were in place in 2020 are no longer in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Healy-Rae

To ask the Minister for Health if he will ensure that all out-of-date information (details supplied) which relates to Covid-19 is removed from public spaces and online; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Healy-Rae

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Response:

Guidance for care of the deceased person during the COVID-19 pandemic were completed by the HSE and HPSC to provide consolidated guidance to a range of health professionals who were involved in the care and management of those bereaved with COVID. Membership of the guidance development group also involved the Irish Associated of Funeral Directors. The IAFD were significant and positive contributors to the guidance development process and the HSE recognises their contribution to the process.

As part of the communication and overall awareness of this guidance, the IAFD undertook a number of communications with its members. This included information included in their bulletins, a series of webinar talks on the guidance and a linked on the IAFD website to the guidance.



We understand however, that not all Funeral Directors are members of the IAFD. However, the HSE guidance applies to all those operating as Funeral Directors and those additional professionals involved in embalming.

Disclosure of information related to the cause of death is taken in accordance with the HSE's Post-mortem Standards. These standards are currently under revision to ensure their alignment with current best practice in the area.

Please also be aware that given that there is and may be in the future deaths associated with COVID, all HSE guidance relating to COVID and Care of the Deceased will be available on the HPSC website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ciaran Browne'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ciaran Browne
Acute Operations – HSE