

Date received:	5 th January 2025
Date responded:	24 th January 2025
Subject:	Crematorium – Policy for precious metals

Question:

“The Council is requested to provide:

- 1. the Douglas Council policy and practice on the management of metals and precious metals recovered following cremation (eg hip and knee replacement artificial joints)**
- 2. details of legal permissions sought and obtained from family members of the deceased for those policies and practices**
- 3. where the Policy and Practice does not include the option for the recycling of those precious metals a reason this option is not available**
- 4. where the metals are recycled details of the income generated from the sale of those metals for each of the past five years.”**

Response:

The Council confirms the following in response to parts 1 to 4 of your request:

1. There is no specific policy either within the Council or the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture. The Council has adopted the industry wide recognised practice of burying recovered metals within the crematorium grounds.
2. There is nothing within legislation that requires permission to be sought and obtained from family members. Legally, there is no property in a cadaver. However, it is the practice of the council, in line with best practice in other jurisdictions, to return such items to family members on request.
3. The main recycling scheme for such items is undertaken by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management in the UK. Parts collected are sold and any resulting income provided to UK based charities of the Local Authorities' choosing, normally bereavement based charities. The Council does not participate in this scheme due to its geographical location and the cost of shipping items to the UK, and its belief that any monies generated should be diverted to on Island bereavement charities rather than those in the UK. The Council is currently researching local options for recycling metal body parts and distribution of income to Island based charities.
4. Not applicable.