

Date received:	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Date responded:	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Subject:	Crematorium – management of metals

Question:

## Question 1

**"DCC is requested to:**

- a) provide a copy of the industry guidance the Council relies upon to inform its policy and practice regarding the management of metals, highlighting the part of the guidance which recommends the 'practice of burying recovered metals within the crematorium grounds.'**
- b) provide a copy of the DEFA Waste Management Licence for operation of the crematoria**
- c) provide a copy of its procedural note(s), or similar, for the segregation and management of metals following cremation**
- d) provide details of the audit process for these procedures**
- e) provide a copy of the relevant audit reports."**

## Question 2

**"DCC is requested to:**

- a) confirm whether the form provided by DCC, and used to request a cremation, includes a specific question to the near relative or executor of the deceased about how they want DCC to manage any metal implants etc. recovered following cremation.**
- b) provide a copy of the form provided by DCC and used to request a cremation,**
- c) where the form requested does not ask the regarding the management of metals following cremation, DCC is requested to:**
  - a. provide the legal basis on which it considers it has the vires to determine the process of managing part of the estate of the deceased without explicitly seeking permission from the near relative or executor for the deceased**
  - b. justify why its procedures do not accord with best practice UK."**

## Question 3

**"DCC is requested to:**

- a) provide a definitive timeline for establishing a scheme similar to that undertaken by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management in the UK for the recycling of metals recovered following cremation.**
- b) confirm if this scheme will be utilised for previously buried metals."**

Response:

In response to part 1 of your request the Council confirms that:

- a) The Council has not to date adopted an approach to recycling metal parts following cremation for reasons explained previously in the answer to Question 3 for FOI response 24/01/25 available on the Douglas City Council website. Consequently, it continues to implement the approach that was industry wide recognised practice in the UK prior to recycling.
- b) DEFA have previously advised the Council that a Waste Management Licence is not required. A response from DEFA as to whether this position has changed is awaited.
- c) All crematorium staff follow the FBCA "Code of Cremation Practice" Section 4 as follows: *"Once a coffin with its contents has been placed in the cremator, it shall not be touched or interfered with until the process of cremation is completed. On completion, the whole of the Cremated Remains/Ashes, which is all the material left in the cremator following cremation less any metals, shall be collected and shall be disposed of in accordance with the instruction received."*
- d) Not applicable.
- e) Not applicable.

In response to part 2 of your request the Council confirms that:

- a) The form used by Douglas City Council is the one as set out in the Cremation Regulations 2000, which does not include a specific question regarding the management of metals left after the cremation process is complete.
- b) Attached.
- c)
  - a. The Council operates in compliance with the Cremation Regulations 2000.
  - b. The Council operates in compliance with the Cremation Regulations 2000. ICCM and FBCA guidelines are usually followed where they are appropriate to the context of the Isle of Man.

In response to part 3 of your request the Council confirms that:

- a) The Council does not have a definitive timeline but continues to review the situation.
- b) Not applicable.