

FOI number: **HBC_FOI_20210047**
Date FOI Received: **25/01/2021**
Department: **Environmental Health**
Title: **Public Health Funerals 01 Apr 2019 - 31 Mar 2020 costs**
Description: **Public Health Funerals 01 Apr 2019 - 31 Mar 2020 costs**

Request: (As Redacted sent by requestor)

Questions 1-4 relate to the financial year 2019/20 between 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2020.

1. How many public health funerals were carried out in the financial year 2019/20?
2. What was the total cost of public health funerals to the Local Authority in the financial year 2019/20?
3. If you recovered funeral costs in the financial year 2019/20, what was the total amount that was recovered?
4. What was the most common reason for the council performing a public health funeral in 2019/20? (Choose one option below)
 - a. The deceased had no family
 - b. The deceased's family were unable to pay for the funeral
 - c. The deceased's family were unwilling to pay for the funeral

Questions 5-8 relate specifically for the time period between 1st March and 31st December 2020

5. How many public health funerals were carried out between 1st March and 31st December 2020?
6. What was the total cost of public health funerals to the Local Authority carried out between 1st March and 31st December 2020?
7. If you recovered funeral costs between 1st March and 31st December 2020, what was the total amount that was recovered?
8. What was the most common reason for the council performing a public health funeral between 1st March and 31st December 2020? (Choose one option below)
 - a. The deceased had no family
 - b. The deceased's family were unable to pay for the funeral
 - c. The deceased's family were unwilling to pay for the funeral

Questions 9-11 are general questions relating to your policies on public health funerals:

9. Are family members allowed to attend the public health funeral? Please answer Yes or No
10. If the funeral is a cremation funeral, are the ashes returned to the family? Please answer Yes or No
11. If you answered YES to 10, was there a cost to the family to have the ashes returned to them?
12. Have you seen a rise in demand for public health funerals in the last year (1st January to 31st December 2020) which you believe is as a result of COVID-19?
 - . Yes
 - . No
 - . Don't know

Response: (Response as Redacted sent by service)

Questions 1-4 relate to the financial year 2019/20 between 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2020.

1. How many public health funerals were carried out in the financial year 2019/20?
Nine
2. What was the total cost of public health funerals to the Local Authority in the financial year 2019/20?
£3,953.00
3. If you recovered funeral costs in the financial year 2019/20, what was the total amount that was recovered?
As reflected above

4. What was the most common reason for the council performing a public health funeral in 2019/20?
(Choose one option below)

- a. The deceased had no family
- b. The deceased's family were unable to pay for the funeral
- c. The deceased's family were unwilling to pay for the funeral

A mix of the above

Questions 5-8 relate specifically for the time period between 1st March and 31st December 2020

4. How many public health funerals were carried out between 1st March and 31st December 2020?

Three

5. What was the total cost of public health funerals to the Local Authority carried out between 1st March and 31st December 2020?

£1314.00

6. If you recovered funeral costs between 1st March and 31st December 2020, what was the total amount that was recovered?

As reflected above

8. What was the most common reason for the council performing a public health funeral between 1st March and 31st December 2020? (Choose one option below)

- a. The deceased had no family
- b. The deceased's family were unable to pay for the funeral
- c. The deceased's family were unwilling to pay for the funeral

B and C

Questions 9-11 are general questions relating to your policies on public health funerals:

9. Are family members allowed to attend the public health funeral? Please answer Yes or No

10. If the funeral is a cremation funeral, are the ashes returned to the family? Please answer Yes or No If they request them

11. If you answered YES to 10, was there a cost to the family to have the ashes returned to them? None if they collect

12. Have you seen a rise in demand for public health funerals in the last year (1st January to 31st December 2020) which you believe is as a result of COVID-19?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

If you have any queries about the processing of your request then please do not hesitate to contact me. Further information explaining the Council's process for responding to information requests together with a complaints/appeals procedure is available in our reception or via our website at:

<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Your-Council/Official-Publications--Guides--Policies/Access-to-Information.aspx>

The Information Commissioner oversees the application of the Freedom of Information Act. You may contact the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioners Office

Wycliffe House, Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545700

Website: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please include the above reference number on all correspondence related to this request.

Thank you for your request.

Kind regards

Information Services