

A GUIDE TO

CREMATION AND CREMATORIA



THE FEDERATION OF BURIAL AND CREMATION AUTHORITIES

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GLOSSARY

CREMATION

The practice of disposing of the human body by combustion.

CREMATED REMAINS

Cremated remains are the skeletal remains recovered following cremation and should be disposed of in accordance with the applicant's wishes where cremated remains can be recovered.

CREMATORIUM

The buildings in which the Service (the whole of it or committal portion only) is conducted and the cremation carried out.

CREMATORY

The actual building or room in which the cremators are housed.

CREMATOR

The equipment in which the process of cremation of the coffined body is carried out. (The terms furnaces, incinerators, ovens, retorts, etc. are deprecated).

CREMATORIUM TECHNICIAN

The qualified member of staff responsible for operating the cremators.

N.B. The Secretary of State's Guidance – Crematoria PG5/2(04) requires that "All operating staff should hold certification from a suitable organisation of their proficiency in operating cremators or, in the case of unqualified staff, should be under the direct supervision of an experienced certificated technician".

An appropriate training programme and certification is provided by the Federation of British Cremation Authorities. Further information on the **Training and Examination Scheme for Crematorium Technicians (TEST)**, as referred to in PG5/2(04), may be obtained through the Secretary of the Federation.

STREWN

In accordance with the request made by the Convocations of Canterbury and York, the word "strewn" is used for the dispersal of cremated remains in the Gardens of Remembrance in preference to the word "scattered" which by implication suggests widespread broadcast, rather than the reverent and more intimate disposal over a localised area.

INTRODUCTION

The Federation, originally named the Federation of Cremation Authorities in Great Britain, was formed at a meeting held at the British Empire Exhibition, Wembley on 1st August 1924 and rules were adopted. These Rules as amended from time to time were entirely redrafted as the Constitution and adopted at the Fourteenth Annual Meeting held at Edinburgh on the 28th June 1938. In 1949 a radical change in the membership of the Executive Committee occurred in consequence of the increasing influence of municipal authorities in the cremation movement.

To improve the benefits of the Federation's members, a Technical Committee was established in the post war era. This Committee meets frequently to consider and advise on the design, construction and operation of crematoria and the development of crematorium equipment and apparatus. The work of the Committee is extended on a personal basis by Technical Officers who assist operating and prospective Cremation Authorities with advice and guidance on local problems.

Standards of performance have been devised and informative publications produced of which this Guide to Cremation and Crematoria is the latest. However, the most important document has been the Code of Cremation Practice. This Code, first published in 1945 and periodically updated and revised, is essential in the maintenance of standards at crematoria and the observance of the Code is an obligation of membership of the Federation.

The Federation's quarterly journal "Resurgam" was first published in 1958 and continues to enjoy a wide circulation within the cremation movement both in the United Kingdom and overseas.

The first Joint Conference of Burial and Cremation Authorities was held in 1932 and, with the exception of the war years, it has been held annually attracting professionals and those concerned with the disposal of the dead and the many allied and sensitive matters associated with that service.

By 1968 it became necessary for an extensive revision of the Federation's Constitution to be considered so as to make it more suitable to the Federation's substantially increased membership and influence and the greater scope of its work in the Cremation Movement. The revised Constitution was adopted at the 44th Annual General Meeting held at Brighton on the 30th September of that year.

To reflect the progressively changing requirements of Member Authorities, the Constitution has been modified on a number of occasions to enable it to better respond to the needs of its membership. At the Annual General Meeting in Southport in 2003 it was agreed to introduce affiliate membership for organisations involved in the provision of services to Burial and Cremation Authorities leading, in 2006, to a further extensive review of the Federation's Constitution allowing, amongst other things, full membership of the Federation to Burial Authorities.

Nearly all crematoria in the United Kingdom are represented in the membership of the Federation whose authority on the subject of cremation has long been respected both nationally and internationally. Government Departments consult the Federation on matters affecting the law and practice of cremation which is now recognised as an essential part of public health services.

**CODE OF
CREMATION PRACTICE**

CODE OF CREMATION PRACTICE

1. CONDUCT

The cremation of a human body is a highly emotional occasion for those taking part in the service. This must never be forgotten by the staff of the Crematorium, who must combine to create and maintain an atmosphere of reverence and respect throughout the entire proceedings.

2. STAFF

The greatest care must be taken in the appointment of members of the Crematorium staff, any one of whom may, by conduct or demeanour, detract from the atmosphere of reverence which it is endeavoured to create. All staff employed in the operation of cremators must be suitably trained in the technical and ethical procedures and certified as specified in the Secretary of State's Guidance Notes of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 or any subsequent legislation made thereunder.

3. AFTER COMMITTAL

- (a) A body shall not be removed from the Crematorium after the Service of Committal except for a lawful purpose.
- (b) Subject to receiving the necessary Authority to Cremate, the coffin and its contents shall be put into the cremator, as soon as practicable, exactly as they have been received on the catafalque. A body not cremated on the same day as the coffin is received at the Crematorium may only be retained on the written consent of the Applicant for cremation and in circumstances deemed necessary by the Cremation Authority, including impacts on the environment. All bodies retained at the crematorium will be accommodated in secure and sanitary conditions within the building.
- (c) 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 shall be collected and shall be disposed of in accordance with the instruction received.

4. CORRECT IDENTITY

- (a) No coffin shall be accepted at any Crematorium unless it bears adequate particulars of the identity of the deceased person contained therein. If a coffin is encased, the cover and the coffin must bear adequate identity of the deceased person.
- (b) Every care must be taken to ensure correct identification throughout the whole proceedings from the moment the coffin is received onto the catafalque until the final disposal of the Cremated Remains.

5. SEPARATELY CREMATED

Each coffin given to the care of the Cremation Authority shall be cremated separately.

6. COFFIN COVERS

When a re-useable cover is used to encase a coffin, signed authority must be given by the Applicant for the cremation authorising its use and consenting to its subsequent removal from the Crematorium.

7. METAL RESIDUES

Any metal found amongst the Cremated Remains shall be disposed of in accordance with the directions of the Cremation Authority or Higher Authority.

8. CREMATED REMAINS – CARE TO BE TAKEN

The utmost care shall be taken to ensure that the Cremated Remains, following their removal from the cremator, shall be kept separate and suitably identified. The Cremated Remains shall be placed in a separate container awaiting final disposal. If the Cremated Remains are to be disposed of in a Garden of Remembrance, this shall be conducted with reverence and respect. Cremated Remains to be conveyed by a carrier service should be placed in a suitably labelled robust container and dealt with according to recommendations laid down by the Federation of British Cremation Authorities.

9. CREMATORS AND ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT

Cremators and all other ancillary equipment used in the Crematorium shall be kept in good repair and maintained in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations, and the requirements of the current guidance Notes issued under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 or subsequent legislation.

10. STATUTORY REGULATIONS

All cremations shall be carried out according to the provisions of the Cremations Acts and the Regulations made thereunder, and any subsequent legislation.

Issued May 2005

**GUIDANCE
FOR THE USE OF
COFFIN COVERS**

The Executive Committee of the Federation accepts that the use of an outer cover to encase a coffin is within the ethical standards of the Code of Cremation Practice. The decision to accept the use of the cover is a matter for individual Cremation Authorities whose judgement may be influenced by the layout of the crematorium buildings and the ability to remove a cover from the crematorium without causing offence or concern to visitors to the crematorium.

The following detail is offered as guidance for the controlled use of coffin covers:

1. Prior notice of at least 24hours should be given to the appropriate crematorium officer when a cover is to be used.
2. A signed authority should be given by the Applicant for the cremation authorising use of the cover and consenting to its subsequent removal from the crematorium.
3. Both the cover and the coffin must bear adequate identity of the deceased person contained therein.
4. The Cremation Authority should be satisfied, by prior inspection if necessary, that the cover is designed in such a way that removal of the coffin is easily facilitated and in a way that prevents the possibility of damage being caused to the coffin or accident or injury to staff.
5. Consideration should be given to the cover dimensions, in particular the width including handles, so as to ensure that it can pass through any apertures such as may be encountered with a lowering catafalque or any other restricted opening adjacent to a catafalque.
6. The coffin should have sufficient strength and rigidity not only to contain the body but also to withstand the rigours involved when it is charged into a cremator.
7. To enable easy removal of the coffin from its cover it is advisable to have two biers available, both with roller facility.
8. The Cremation Authority should not accept responsibility for any damage to the cover howsoever caused.
9. There is a need to ensure that there is sufficient space within the crematorium building to house the covers pending their collection by the funeral director.
10. The funeral director should provide sufficient staff for the collection of the covers which should be at a time and in a manner agreed with crematorium management.

**RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF CREMATORIA**

RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CREMATORIA

INTRODUCTION

The Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities is approached frequently by persons, companies and local authorities requesting information that will assist them in the task of establishing a crematorium. Many problems have to be addressed and carefully considered when conducting a feasibility study or preparing a scheme for submission to the Planning Authority.

The information summarised in the following pages covers the whole field of policy, siting, planning and operating a crematorium. Further information concerning these and all technical subjects may be obtained on application to the Secretary. Adequate advice on problems of a local nature can only be given after consultation has taken place between representatives of the prospective cremation authority and the Federation's Technical Officers.

PLANNING

It is assumed that before any organisation proceeds with the formulation of plans for a crematorium the proposals will have received reasonably strong support from the Local Authority in whose area it would be sited and from the general public who will use the facility. The length of journey, its duration and the availability of service times at neighbouring crematoria can influence the strength of local support. In addition, the application of non-resident charges by neighbouring crematoria can have an adverse effect on the local community.

Broadly speaking, crematoria undertaking 1,200 or more cremations per annum are most likely to be viable, though there are a number, mainly serving rural or island communities, undertaking fewer than this.

It will be necessary to make an assessment of how many cremations may be expected if a crematorium is to be established, based upon local population size and growth projections from the Office for National Statistics. It would be helpful, therefore, if information is obtained as to how many deaths in the area during the preceding five years resulted in cremation being undertaken at existing crematoria, including any trends in terms of growth or decline in numbers. Plans should take account of the proximity and capacity of neighbouring crematoria, and, where relevant, the future capacity of local cemeteries.

FINANCE

Single Authority. Local authorities with a population of 150,000 or more would be in a position to provide and manage a crematorium with a reasonable expectation of operating on a sound financial basis after the initial years of repayment of capital and associated loan charges.

Combined Authorities. In a situation where the population is below 150,000, capital funding can be provided and running costs shared by several local authorities forming a joint management committee under the provisions of the appropriate Local Government Acts. A joint operation can also be funded by a consortium of private investors who can form a separate company in order to provide the facility.

Joint Crematorium Board. Individual local authorities are empowered to appoint joint crematorium boards under the Public Health Act 1936 to provide and maintain one or more crematoria for the areas of the respective authorities. The constituent authorities each have representation on the Board, which is deemed a corporate body in its own right, having perpetual succession, a common seal and the power to hold land for the purposes of its constitution.

Joint Crematorium Committee. Authorities can combine under the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000 to form a joint crematorium committee. Financial responsibility and member representation needs to be agreed in advance. The Joint Committee will ultimately be deemed to be the Cremation Authority under the appropriate Cremation Acts.

Private Company. A private company and/or consortium of companies may provide the necessary capital to enable the establishment and/or management of a crematorium.

Joint Venture. A local authority may combine with a private company to establish and operate a crematorium as a joint venture.

APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECT

The appointed architect should be in consultation with an expert in crematorium management and operation from the outset. It is also advisable that the officer responsible for the eventual management of the crematorium should be involved as soon as possible in the planning and development of the facility.

SITING OF CREMATORIA

The process of site selection should be aimed at achieving quietness and seclusion. A woodland or parkland setting or an area of undulating ground with good natural features and mature trees would enable the establishment of a good natural setting with a minimum of horticultural treatment. A visual impact assessment will help to identify any attractive views beyond the boundaries of the site that could be usefully preserved as part of the overall landscape design.

A proposed crematorium will require approval under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and current Building Regulations. The co-operation and sympathetic support of the local Planning Officer in the selection and layout of the site and buildings, therefore, is highly desirable. Government policy, set out in Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development, currently favours the use of suitably located previously developed land to bring it back into beneficial use. A careful survey of such sites prior to development will help identify the presence of underground services/utilities and other constraints on development such as ground contamination or mine shafts. It is also important to ensure that the presence of protected species or trees covered by tree preservation orders is identified so that provision can be made to avoid their disturbance. The aim should be to enhance wildlife habitats, wherever possible, as a part of any new development.

The site should be reasonably accessible by public transport and should have adequate water, electricity and drainage services. A mains gas supply would be an advantage as the supply, storage and cost of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) is more expensive.

Ideal sites are rarely to be located in urban areas and it is emphasised that suitability of setting is of greater importance than its location in close proximity to population centres. Often, this will involve sites within the Green Belt, which is the subject of restrictive planning controls. Government guidance contained in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2: Green Belts, provides a general presumption against inappropriate development within them “except in very special circumstances”. Should the proposal progress to a public inquiry, evidence of community support from funeral directors, amenity societies and the general public will help demonstrate the local need. The bulk and height of buildings within the Green Belt is also sensitive issue that may require a compromise approach to their design.

One of the most intrusive elements of any new crematorium is the chimney stack, which must be designed to comply with the requirements of the Secretary of State's Process Guidance Notes 5/2(04) for Crematoria issued in support of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. A methodology for calculating the stack height is contained in HMIP Technical Guidance Note D1 for Part B Processes “Guidelines on Discharge Stack Heights for Polluting Emissions”.

Where local circumstances indicate that the most convenient site for a crematorium would be within or attached to an existing cemetery, the adequate planting of trees and shrubs is recommended to screen the crematorium from the roads and buildings and also the Gardens of Remembrance. Experience has shown that some crematoria have been sited very satisfactorily in conjunction with cemeteries. The resultant saving of land, capital and the additional administrative costs can be of great benefit.

Section 5 of the Cremation Act 1902 requires that no crematorium shall be constructed nearer to any dwelling house than 182.880 metres (200 yards) (reduced in the case of a crematorium established subject to London County Council General Powers Act 1935 Section 64 to 91.440 metres (100 yards)), except with the consent in writing of the owner, lessee and occupier of such house, nor within 45.720 metres (50 yards) of any public highway, nor in any consecrated part of a burial ground of any local authority. Some locally promoted Acts of Parliament may have modified these provisions.

Entrances and exits from the crematorium grounds must be carefully planned. Siting or subsequent development of facilities in close proximity to any schools, factories, trading estates, sports grounds or other incompatible establishments should be avoided. The immediate approach to a crematorium through a residential road, resulting in the constant passage of funeral processions or traffic congestion, would almost certainly attract objection on road safety grounds and may require the commissioning of a traffic impact survey. Entrance and exit gates should be set back from the road and should incorporate a pedestrian gateway and path. Entrances that would require funeral corteges and accompanying private cars to cross the flow of traffic should not be sited on main trunk roads. If this is unavoidable, then it should be off a roundabout or where there is space in the central reservation of a dual carriageway for the hearse and mourners' cars to wait in a dignified manner.

The successful operation of a crematorium is dependent on the adequate separation of funeral corteges in both time and space. Each funeral party must be provided with as much privacy as possible.

The flow of traffic to the building should be in one direction only and should be simple, dignified and uninterrupted. Where possible, entrance and exit routes should be screened and separated to avoid funeral corteges passing each other. This discipline also applies to the movement of mourners within the building. The positioning of entrances and exits to chapels and waiting rooms, public toilets and floral tribute areas should ensure that funeral groups progress through the building in sequence. Shared vehicular entrance and exit roads should be at least five metres wide. An adequate car park is essential. The size can be estimated by equating it to approximately two thirds of the total seating capacity of the chapel. A proportion of parking spaces should be allocated close to the chapel for use by disabled people to accord with the advice contained in Department of Transport Traffic Advisory Leaflet 5/95. Only the hearse, principal mourners' and disabled people's vehicles should be allowed beyond the parking area. Car parks should be placed as near to the chapel as possible but having regard to the necessity to avoid disturbance by noise. Appropriate screening should be used between car parks and the buildings.

All crematoria must operate under the "Secretary of State's Guidance for Crematoria", which requires an application to the local authority for a permit to operate. The Guidance is revised on a four yearly basis and forms part of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Part 1.

It is recommended that as part of the feasibility study to provide a new facility, the appropriate Regulatory Authority is consulted when interpretation of the regulations can be discussed prior to the making of a formal application. Applications must be advertised and placed upon a public register. The public and statutory consultees are given the opportunity to comment and have their views taken into account. The permit must be renewed annually, for which a fee is payable.

A minimum of two hectares (approximately five acres) per estimated 1,000 cremations per annum is recommended. This area includes the space needed for traffic circulation, parking, a modest amount of space around the building, and the crematorium and gardens of remembrance. The long term needs of the area should be carefully assessed at the outset and sufficient land acquired initially to allow for future extensions due to increased demand for cremation.

BUILDINGS

Main Entrance

Buildings should be designed to allow staff to circulate easily to any part, e.g. taking wreaths from a coffin after committal to the floral tribute viewing area, without disturbing any funeral service that may be in progress. Any part of the establishment that will be used by the public must be designed to allow access for disabled persons. In fact, ideal planning will place all floors on one level. The provision of a fire alarm and emergency lighting should be considered to enable effective evacuation of the building in an emergency.

In the uncertain climate of this country a porte-cochere is very desirable, enabling the coffin to be removed from the hearse and mourners to pass from the vehicles under cover. The length should be at least 5.5 metres to enable the end of the hearse and one car to be under cover. Care should be taken that ample width (not less than 2.7 metres) is provided to allow doors on both sides of cars to be opened fully. The minimum height should be 3.5 metres.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CREMATORIA

Entrance Hall or Vestibule. A spacious entrance hall is an asset in many ways, allowing mourners to congregate under cover and in full view of the main drive, and conserving the heat in the chapel by providing a buffer between the colder outside atmosphere. The waiting room and toilets should also adjoin and the vestry be adjacent. The toilets should be easily accessible before the service, immediately after the service and at the point where relatives disperse after the ceremony. Toilet facilities will be required with suitable provision for people with disabilities. Care should be taken to avoid plumbing noises being audible in the chapel and entrance hall.

Waiting Room. This should be large enough to provide seating for approximately ten per cent of the total seating capacity of the chapel and should have windows or glass doors which allow the arrival of the cortege to be seen by those waiting. Alternatively the use of closed circuit television could be considered. It may also be appropriate to consider the provision of refreshment facilities that can be used by mourners. Separate toilets for men and women should be provided, together with toilet facilities for the disabled.

Vestry. It is desirable for the officiant to meet the cortege at the door of the chapel. The vestry should therefore be located in the front of the building close to the entrance hall. Windows should be sited to allow the officiant to see the cortege arriving. Toilet facilities should be provided.

Chapel. Chapels should take into account Christian, non-Christian and secular usage and must not be consecrated for the exclusive use of any particular denomination. A system of easily changed symbols should be installed. It is estimated that no more than thirty mourners attend in 50% of cremation services, and only on exceptional occasions does the number exceed eighty. It seems, therefore, that seating accommodation should be provided for some eighty/hundred people. A chapel of this size will accommodate the majority of services without destroying that intimate atmosphere so desirable with a smaller congregation. Where cremation numbers are likely to exceed 2,000 then the ideal is that two chapels be provided, one being for the more intimate service (approximately 20 seats) and the other large enough for at least eighty/hundred persons. Care should be taken to respect community needs such as, for example, the provision of additional standing room where there is a local tradition for large funerals, as in some areas of London.

The architect would incorporate seating to harmonise with the building. Fixed pews with kneelers incorporated are widely used, but requiring particular attention to the comfort of people using them. Chairs offer greater flexibility in terms of layout, particularly if relatives require a more informal arrangement. If chairs are used they should be fastened together to minimise noise during the service in addition to preserving alignment. Whatever system of seating is adopted, provision should be made to accommodate wheelchairs within the main seating area to avoid their undue prominence and prevent obstruction of the aisles. A minister's desk should be available. A hearing loop should be provided, along with a public address system if large numbers of mourners are anticipated. Lighting should be provided, of sufficient intensity for mourners to be able to read service/hymn books. All doorways through which the bearers pass with the coffin should be at least 2 metres wide, with a minimum height of 2.5 metres. Entrance doors should be free of projections and should operate silently.

As a general observation on chapel interior design and furnishing it is strongly recommended that eccentric or purely secular features should be avoided. Experience has shown that mourners derive much comfort from a traditionally spiritual atmosphere engendered by the visual arrangements in the chapel. The décor should be simple, using natural materials and muted colours.

Windows can be provided at a number of levels to enable mourners to view a restful and attractive external landscape; the designer should avoid a totally introspective environment. However, the windows should also be positioned in such a way as to ensure the privacy of mourners during the funeral service. It should be remembered that the building will have to serve the Authority for many years and therefore all furnishing and fittings should be of the finest quality. A separate exit from the chapel should be provided so as to avoid mourners arriving at the chapel meeting those leaving the previous service. Depending on the layout of the crematorium, it may be appropriate to consider acoustic insulation of the chapel to minimise disturbance from mourners assembling in or departing from other parts of the building.

Music. Experience has shown that this aspect of the crematorium facilities is of considerable importance. The overlooking of it in the initial planning of the building can produce bad acoustical conditions and other musical difficulties that cannot easily be overcome afterwards. An organ is considered to be essential and an organ builder, as well as an acoustics expert, should be consulted in the designing of the chapel, whether or not the organ is to be provided at the outset of the establishment. If recorded music is to be provided, it is essential for the apparatus to be of very high quality, specially designed for the chapel and expertly installed; a separate room should be provided to house the apparatus and the recordings. The quality of the musical arrangements can affect the value of the funeral service and, in consequence, the reputation of the crematorium.

Closed Circuit Television. The use of closed circuit television, to allow attendants to monitor traffic, chapel and crematory arrangements and the security of the facility and grounds, can be of great benefit to the smooth operation of the facilities. Crematoria carrying out in excess of 3,000 cremations per annum and incorporating two chapels would find such equipment invaluable.

Catafalque. There are three main types of catafalque in use at the present time:

- a. Lowering into the catafalque or into the floor itself by using a hydraulic or mechanical lift. A canopy may be provided upon which the wreaths may be placed;
- b. Passing through the end or side wall of the chapel; and
- c. Where the catafalque is stationary and curtains or screens are drawn across the recess.

This is particularly applicable when the chapel is built in cruciform style and a transept may be used as a reception chapel.

A system of electrical signalling (in duplicate) should be installed to enable the Minister, person conducting the service or Chapel Attendant to signal that the apparatus is to be set in motion.

Type a. There are so many divergences of opinion over the catafalque and method of committal that it would be unwise to be dogmatic over any one method. In the early days of cremation the lowering of the catafalque was considered symbolic of the earth burial and therefore to be avoided, but it is now considered by many to be an association with tradition. Should the building be designed with a basement, this type will be essential. The lift section of a descending catafalque should not be less than 3.25 metres long by 1.00 metre wide, the top of which should be no more than 1.2 metres above the surrounding floor level. Adequate safety guards should be provided on all moving parts. A basement, however, cannot be recommended owing to the lack of ventilation, costliness of any future extension and the likelihood of noise rising to the chapel.

Type b. Unless movement is to be effected by a built-in manually operated conveyor belt, it has little to recommend its adoption in a new building, and if it is to be used in an adaptation of an existing chapel, care should be taken in its design and maintenance to ensure its silence in operation and in the avoidance of uneven movement of the coffin.

Type c. This is perhaps the method to be recommended at the present time with the catafalque or bier, on which the coffin rests during the funeral ceremony, being placed in the centre of the chapel or offset from a central position so that, it can be seen by the congregation from all parts of the chapel. This arrangement would also enable an altar with the cross to be placed permanently in a central recess or small chancel which, when not desired in certain ceremonies, could be screened off by sliding panels, folding doors or by curtains leaving the appearance of the chapel again symmetrical and complete. Any routine moving of the altar and cross should be avoided. A fixed catafalque should be about 3 metres long and 1 metre wide, with a height equivalent to that of the cremator hearth. It is essential that there should be no steps of any kind from the chapel entrance to the catafalque.

Committal Hall and Crematory. A committal hall is desirable in order to provide soundproofing between the chapel and the various unavoidable noises of the crematory and fan room. The hall should measure at least 4 metres between the opening from the catafalque and the wall separating it from the crematory. When planning fittings for the walls, floors and fronts of cremators, it should be remembered that occasionally committals are witnessed by some of the relatives. Finishes should be impervious and easily maintained. The crematory should be immediately behind the committal hall. With cremator design being continuously updated it is necessary, even with single-ended cremators, to make provision at the design stage for adequate space for raking and charging. It is essential that initial provision should be made, at the design stage, for at least two independently operating cremators, with space allowed for possible additions should the annual number of cremations exceed 2,000. Effective ventilation will be required to ensure satisfactory working conditions for operatives.

Viewing Room. Ideally a viewing room should be provided to enable the bereaved to view the coffin being charged into the cremator. This is particularly important to Hindus and Sikhs.

Cremators. Careful consideration should be given to the type of cremator to be installed and enquiries should be made from a number of other authorities regarding their experiences with the type of units that they are operating. The control of smoke and fumes is of primary importance and undue emphasis should not be placed on cremation time and fuel consumption. Cremators and other ancillary equipment should conform to the specifications and requirements included in the Secretary of State's Process Guidance Notes 5/2(04) for Crematoria issued in support of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Furthermore, Additional Guidance contained in AQ Note 1(05), published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, requires all new cremators to be fitted with mercury abatement where it is likely that more than 750 cremations will take place at the crematorium within the subsequent 12 months or 31st December 2012 whichever is the sooner. Fan room, meters, heating and mercury abatement plant and other necessary apparatus should be situated adjoining the cremators and as far from the chapel as possible to avoid noise and vibration. For the same reason, the position of the external air inlet for the fans should not be near footpaths and other places used by the public. Due to the possibility of mains power failure or low voltage, it is advisable to consider the provision of a standby generator.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CREMATORIA

The following facilities may be considered for inclusion in the planning of a crematorium depending on the size, situation and projected numbers of cremations per annum.

ANCILLARY ACCOMMODATION

- A. *Bearers' Room.* May be provided for the use of the bearers whilst the service is in progress.
- B. *Chapel of Rest.* Where coffined body may repose during the interim period between death and the cremation service, as might occasionally be required. This building should be easily accessed externally by funeral directors bringing coffins to the crematorium and should be out of view of visitors and mourners arriving for funeral services.
- C. *Coffin Storage Facilities.* Necessary accommodation should be provided adjoining the committal hall for coffins to rest after the funeral service to await cremation.
- D. *Treatment Room for Cremated Remains.* Absolutely essential and should include equipment for cooling and preparation for final disposal. Dust extraction and arrestment facilities should be provided where cremated remains are transferred between containers or equipment. Separate accommodation should be provided for the storage of cremated remains awaiting disposal.
- E. *Staff Room.* Would include mess room and toilet facilities.
- F. *Storage Room.* Should provide adequate cupboard space for stores and equipment.
- G. *Office.* Where the administrative staff are housed will depend entirely on the site and whether a cemetery is incorporated. It is essential that the public should not have to walk a long distance from the entrance to the office, which should also be situated in a position so that mourners are not disturbed during services.
- H. *Chapel of Remembrance.* Used for the storing and display of the Books of Remembrance, in suitable cabinets. Ideally this chapel should be separate from the main building and close to the Garden of Remembrance. Visitors, who wish to view the Books of Remembrance, or quietly meditate in the chapel, should not be disturbed by mourners attending services and vice versa. The display cabinet should be designed to facilitate viewing by disabled visitors.
- I. *Floral Tributes.* Ample provision should be made for the display of floral tributes. The initial reception point for displaying them would best be sited near the exit which the mourners will use from the chapel, but care should be taken to avoid noise from this point being heard in the chapel. A covered area will provide shelter for mourners during inclement weather. Provision should also be made for the accommodation of cut flowers that will be brought by visitors to the crematorium and Chapel of Remembrance at any time.
- J. *Staff Housing.* Where staff housing is to be provided careful consideration should be given to siting, if this is to be within the grounds. Adjacent to the entrance gates is not necessarily the best site and it should be borne in mind that staff who work together each day do not always wish to live in close proximity to each other or directly on their job.

NB. Access to and egress from all buildings and grounds which the public may be expected to visit should include the provision of ramps and handrails for the benefit of the disabled.

METHODS OF DISPOSAL

General. The increase in the number of cremations taking place annually compels Cremation Authorities to give careful consideration to the whole question of commemoration. The following summary indicates the recent practice in the disposal of cremated remains:

Strewn in Grounds	30%
Interred in Grounds	10%
Placed in Niches	less than 1%
Removed from the Crematorium	58%
Retained Pending Instructions	<u>2%</u>
	<u>100%</u>

Interment. Cremated remains are often conveyed to cemeteries for interment in an existing family grave.

The desire to save land, which was a primary object of the cremation movement, has discouraged many authorities from developing new grave facilities exclusively to contain cremated remains.

The interment of cremated remains in various areas of the Garden of Remembrance is often carried out as an alternative to surface strewing although the use of caskets in these circumstances should be precluded.

Strewing of Cremated Remains. Cremated remains may be strewn in the Garden of Remembrance either on the surface of formal or informal lawn areas, in the shrubberies or in natural woodland. Where possible, it is desirable for the location of the strewn remains to be recorded within defined periodic strewing areas, situated well beyond the site of any future building developments or extensions. Many authorities have been disappointed with the appearance of lawns following surface strewing of cremated remains. If this procedure is followed, a range of alternative sites for strewing should be provided to provide time for the turf to recover. A widespread or light covering of fine soil or compost after strewing is also advisable.

Commemoration. Experience has shown that when cremated remains are dispersed in the grounds attached to the crematorium, many relatives require some form of memorial. A choice of at least two types should be provided, but for limited periods only. Considerable practical and legal difficulties have been encountered in respect of perpetuity arrangements that were made many years ago and which cannot now be altered. Wherever possible, provision should be made for commemorative floral tributes to be accommodated within the general vicinity of the memorials. Visitors to memorials will appreciate a dedicated car parking area, set apart from that for normal funeral traffic. Informal seating and the provision of one or more shelters should also be considered.

Recordia. Methods vary at individual crematoria. The erection of stone or bronze tablets on well designed cloisters or specially constructed walls became the accepted practice until about 1940. This commemorative facility, with minor variations, has recently been revived and is available at some crematoria.

Memorial Roses, Trees and Shrubs. Some crematoria have facilities in their gardens for the planting of memorial roses, trees and shrubs to which may be attached a suitably inscribed plaque. Additionally, many cremation authorities operate schemes that allow for the planting of bulbs (crocus, daffodil, etc.) in certain areas of the Garden of Remembrance.

Garden Seats, etc. The provision of garden seats and architectural features offer another form of commemoration in harmony with the garden.

Bronze Memorial Plates. Authorities have adopted the method of fixing bronze memorial plates to specially constructed, chamfered terra-cotta brick or stone edging to the walks in the Garden of Remembrance, or a similar edging of stone or green slate directly inscribed on the chamfer. Relatives appreciate this form of commemoration when it allows the inscription to be placed in close proximity to where the cremated remains were strewn. This method enables many thousands of memorials to be provided without detracting from the beauty of the garden.

Books of Remembrance. These are regarded as being the ideal form of commemoration because of their unlimited capacity, the simplicity of the inscription, and comparative inexpensiveness.

The Book of Remembrance provides a lasting form of memorial to those cremated. It may be in four quarterly volumes, hand made, covered in natural calf vellum and richly tooled in gold. Lettering executed by hand by modern craftsmen provides a permanent record comparable with the carrying on of the tradition of the best-illuminated manuscripts of mediaeval times. An opening is provided for each day of the year and the Book, housed in a protective case, remains open each day at the appropriate page, so that entries may be seen on each anniversary of the date of death and at other times by arrangement.

Columbaria. This type of commemoration is probably one of the oldest recorded, however, it has not been provided for in most post-war crematoria. Niches can be leased in columbaria for a period of time and ornate and well-crafted urns can be supplied by the cremation authority to hold the cremated remains. While expensive to construct, columbaria can meet a need and provide a return on the capital invested.

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

An essential part of any scheme will be the Garden of Remembrance and landscape architects of experience should be retained to make it a place of quietness and beauty.

When the site chosen for the crematorium has an attractive, natural landscape, as recommended previously, this should be disturbed as little as possible and any necessary development should only be complementary to the existing natural features. A formal layout is not desirable, excepting as might be necessary adjacent to the buildings to harmonise with the style of architecture. Wherever possible, the grounds should be accessible by wheelchair and the layout of the grounds should incorporate a minimum number of steps.

The main purpose of the Garden must not be overlooked and most of the area should be available for the strewing or burial of cremated remains.

On a flat bare site it is important to get quick-growing trees and shrubs planted at once with a long term planting scheme for forest trees for the ultimate screening and maturing of the site. Memorial areas should be screened and separated from those parts of the grounds used by mourners attending funerals or viewing floral tributes. The main avenues of traffic should be screened as much as possible to retain areas for quiet thought and meditation.

ADAPTATIONS

It is reasonable to suppose that small urban and rural areas with populations of say 20,000 to 50,000 and isolated from other centres of population could be provided with cremation facilities by the adaptation of an existing chapel on the unconsecrated portion of a cemetery. This has been achieved satisfactorily on a number of occasions. Also, under certain conditions, chapels and other buildings surrounded by, and situated on, consecrated ground can be deconsecrated in order to make a conversion possible. The observations made in the preceding pages under various headings would, in the main, apply to adaptation schemes, but possibly on a less ambitious scale and modifications would have to be made accordingly within existing limitations.

REQUIREMENTS BEFORE OPENING

Prior to the opening of a crematorium, the cremation authority is required to certify to the Secretary of State that the crematorium has been completed and is properly equipped for the disposal of human remains by burning (Cremation Act 1952, s.1(1), as amended by the Local Authority Planning and Land Act 1980. Furthermore, no cremations may take place unless and until the Home Secretary has been notified of the opening of the crematorium (Cremation Regulations, 1930, r.3)

The requirements for the opening of a crematorium in Scotland are contained in the Cremation Act 1952, s.1(3), as amended by the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and the Cremation (Scotland) Regulations 1935, r. 3.

CREMATORIA
RECOMMENDED PRACTICES AND
PROCEDURES

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES

Each Cremation Authority and members of the Staff will be conversant with the Code of Cremation Practice, which forms the basis on which this important service is undertaken.

Those engaged in this service must be clear as to the correct procedure to be followed. There are indications that a newly established Cremation Authority may accept the standards set at other Crematoria in the area, therefore it is essential in every respect that the standard set should be the highest possible.

The Federation's "Code of Cremation Practice" clearly lays down the standard to be attained. In practice the interpretation and implementation of the Code have varied considerably as between one Crematorium and another, particularly with regard to some aspects of operational practice. In order to obtain a clear picture of what is required it is necessary to consider certain factors.

THE CREMATION PROCESS

This is the reduction by oxidation of the human body and the coffin in which it is enclosed to an irreducible minimum. The primary function of the process is to exhaust all moisture from the body (which is normally in excess of 60% water) and from the coffin and other coverings. Then to consume all remaining combustible material, leaving only the calcium residue of the bone structure (the cremated remains) and non-combustible metals, e.g. metal used in the construction of the coffin, medical implants etc.

THE BASIC PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE CREMATION PROCESS

In order to obtain complete combustion of the coffin and body without smoke it will require:

- (1) that gases should be held at 850⁰C, for a minimum of 2 seconds, in the secondary chamber and that combustion conditions are those detailed in the Secretary of State's Guidance – Crematoria PG5/2(04).
- (2) air in sufficient quantities in the right place at the right time to provide the oxygen required.
- (3) sufficient space within the cremator chamber to allow the large volume of combustion gases to be intermixed with the oxygen contained in the air introduced under pressure by the use of fans.
- (4) flue-ways large enough to allow the combustion gases to be withdrawn from the cremating chambers into the main chimney stack, but not too large to allow undue cooling down. The Secretary of State's Guidance - Crematoria sets out requirements for each cremator to have a separate flue-way and a specific stack height in relation to other parts of the crematorium.
- (5) maintenance of negative pressure within the cremating chambers at all times (i.e. always under suction).
- (6) best available techniques are to be used to control the process in order to meet the emission limits through good combustion by the correct operation of all fuel, air and suction controls throughout the cremation process and for this purpose monitoring and safety devices are provided governing each cremator.

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES

- (7) no disturbance of human remains until final calcination i.e. the last flicker of flames has ceased. Then and only then, should the remains be raked down, allowed to cool and withdrawn from the cremator.

The "Secretary of State's Guidance – Crematoria, (Process Guidance Note 5/2(04))" issued under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Part 1, gives the combustion and emission parameters which apply to all cremation equipment. It is strongly recommended that all crematoria possess a current copy of these guidelines.

STAFF

All cremators are now computer controlled and generally their operation requires a cremator operator to start the process and to make a decision when the remains can be removed from the cremator. However, there have been a number of cases where the micro processor has been unable to control the process and substantial damage has been caused to equipment, flues, chimneys and chapels. It is, therefore, recommended that when a cremator is in operation a qualified member of staff should always be in attendance within the Crematory. From the 1st April 1998 any person operating a cremator must, by law, be qualified to do so.

Special attention is drawn to paragraph 2 of the Code of Cremation Practice regarding the appointment of crematorium staff.

NO INTERFERENCE WITH THE COFFIN

The Code of Cremation Practice in Paragraph 3 refers to the non interference with the coffin or its contents following the Committal Service, until the process of cremation is completed. This means:

- (a) No interference whatsoever with the coffin, such as removal of the lid screws, lid, furniture or name plate. The coffin should be inserted in the cremator exactly as received.
- (b) No interference whatsoever with the coffin or body during the whole process of cremation.

Under no circumstances should partially consumed remains be disturbed. Only when final calcination is complete (that is when there is no combustible material left and the last flicker of flame has died out) should the remains be raked down and, when cool, moved from the cremator.

CORRECT IDENTITY OF CREMATED REMAINS

The utmost care should be taken to ensure that the Cremated Remains resulting from each cremation shall be kept separate, as emphasised in Paragraph 8 of the Code of Cremation Practice. To adhere to this it is essential:

- (a) that each coffin is provided with sufficient marking to identify the body contained within it.
- (b) to provide for the correct identification of the Remains by supplying a card, similar to the one set out below, which should accompany the coffin and the Remains throughout all stages of the cremation process until final disposal.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CREMATE

Name of Deceased.....
Cremation No..... Date.....
Funeral Director.....
Remarks.....
.....
Authorised by.....

This "Instruction Card", signed by the Registrar or other delegated member of staff, serves as the written directions for the cremation to proceed. As soon as the coffin is moved after committal from the chapel, the Instruction Card should be checked against the name on the coffin. The Instruction Card must remain with the coffin until cremation is to take place when the card is placed in the card holder attached to the cremator and then transferred stage by stage throughout the various processes of collecting the remains from the cremator, their reduction to a condition suitable for strewing, (depending on instructions received) attached to the container pending their disposal and finally returned to the crematorium office in order that the statutory entry in the Cremation Register regarding disposal may be completed.

- (c) the whole of the remains should be kept separate. If the cremation process has been carried out efficiently, there should be nothing left except the calcinated remains of bone material of the deceased person and any non-combustible metals. Everything else will have been reduced to its constituent gases.

When any residual metals have been removed, the whole of the remains then left must be treated as cremated human remains. The sifting out of the finer particles is both unnecessary and undesirable.

REDUCTION OF CREMATED REMAINS

Unless the relatives instruct otherwise, the remains should always be reduced whether they are to be strewn, taken away or otherwise disposed of. They should be reduced to a condition which will allow for their speedy absorption into the turf or soil if strewing is to take place in the Garden of Remembrance.

RESIDUAL METALS

Where the authority's chosen method of disposal of the metal residue arising from cremation is by burial, then this should be at a depth exceeding 4ft (1.2 metres) in the Garden of Remembrance (Woodland areas if available) under the supervision of the Crematorium Manager and a record should be kept of the location. Cremation Authorities may, with the applicant's written authority, recycle metals recovered following cremation if they so wish.

THE BURIAL OR STREWING OF CREMATED REMAINS

The burial or strewing of Cremated Remains must always be carried out with reverence and decorum and an attendant, suitably dressed, should be appointed for this task when the disposal of the remains is witnessed by the family. When no special arrangements have been made by the family, it is desirable to bury or strew ashes at a fixed period after the cremation. This arrangement gives the near relatives an opportunity to meditate at home at that particular hour of the day when this simple ceremony is being carried out. If it is desired to effect a change of mind regarding the method of disposal, the applicant for the cremation, who would be the Executor or nearest surviving relative, then has an opportunity of informing the Crematorium Manager in order to make alternative arrangements.

When strewn the Cremated Remains should be dispersed from a low level over the area selected, covering a space of at least three square metres, in order that the ground may not become compacted. In every case, the Cremated Remains should be covered with composted soil, for two reasons; firstly, so that the Cremated Remains are not visible to passers-by, and secondly, to effect a balancing control of the fertility of the soil and turf. This method is in accordance with the expressed wish of the Joint Convocations of Canterbury and York, and is worthy of adoption at every Crematorium.

The Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities considers that every crematorium should provide a strewing area of at least 2.0234 hectares (five acres) of fertile land for each 1,000 cremations per annum which are likely to be carried out at the crematorium in question.

ALL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT TO BE KEPT IN GOOD WORKING ORDER

The maintenance of all plant and equipment is most essential and now required under the Environmental Protection Act but in the past all too often neglected in one respect or another.

CREMATOR

To ensure that the cremator is maintained to the highest level it is imperative that the cremators are maintained under contract with the supplier or other competent company knowledgeable in this area of work.

The Process Guidance Note PG5/2(04) states in **6.33 Maintenance** that; “ Effective preventative maintenance should be employed on all aspects of the process including all plant, buildings and the equipment concerned with the control of emissions to air. Cleaning of cremator ducts and flue ways is considered part of preventative maintenance e.g. raking out twice a year” Effective management has been identified as the key to environmental performance.

In addition:

- A written maintenance programme should be provided to the Regulator with respect to pollution control equipment, including control instrumentation and the cremator secondary chamber and ducts and flues;
- A record of such maintenance should be made available for inspection.
- Cleaning schedules should be available on site to the Regulator.

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES

- Spares and consumables – in particular, those subject to continual wear – should be held on site, or should be available at short notice so that plant breakdowns can be rectified rapidly

All flue residues should be buried within the crematorium grounds as they may contain small particles of human remains.

During the cremation process all visible and odorous emissions should be limited and monitored with assessments of emissions being made frequently and at least once per day whilst the process is in operation. The time, location (to be agreed with the Regulator) and result of these assessments should be recorded and retained on site for at least two years.

FANS

These must be kept free from dust and occasionally oiled or greased according to requirements. On no account should the machine used for reducing the remains be housed in the same room.

REDUCING MACHINE

It is necessary to keep this machine regularly cleared of all accumulating dust, particularly the gears and other moving parts; oiling and greasing should be attended to at regular intervals.

All dust collected from the cremator and from the reducing machine should be buried decently within the precincts of the Garden of Remembrance.

This equipment should be designed so that any dust produced cannot enter the cremated remains treatment room. The maximum amount of particulate matter permitted in the atmosphere is specified in the Secretary of State's Guidance Notes for Crematoria.

GENERAL

All mechanical and moving parts on the Catafalque, conveyor Biers and other machinery, need periodical cleaning, oiling and greasing. The Crematory and all rooms connected therewith must be kept in a clean and orderly condition. The floors will need constant attention and the walls should be cleaned down periodically

Inspection of the plant, equipment, and the actual process of cremation should be undertaken regularly by the Officer in charge, in order to ensure that the high standard of maintenance and of operation is being employed.

FLORAL TRIBUTES

Every Cremation Authority must, at some time or other, become aware of the problem which confronts them concerning the correct placing of floral tributes. Attention is drawn to the advisability of setting aside a special area of the gardens which is out of view when looking from the chapel, large enough to allow the display of all floral tributes for a minimum period of three days following the funeral service.

Attention should be given to the handling of floral tributes. The moving of these tributes bundled in armfuls is strongly deprecated. Where practicable, some form of wheeled or hand flower carrier should be provided in order that all floral tributes may be placed carefully thereon and moved to the display areas.

**RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE
PROCEDURE
FOR THE PACKING AND DESPATCH OF
CREMATED REMAINS**

RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PROCEDURE FOR THE PACKING AND DESPATCH OF CREMATED REMAINS

Cremation Authorities should be concerned that cremated remains which they despatch arrive at their destination safely and in a condition which will not cause distress or embarrassment to the recipient. The following recommendations have been formulated as a guide to Cremation Authorities.

CREMATED REMAINS

The whole of the cremated remains must be removed from the cremator and, after cooling, and treatment, placed in a polythene bag which should be sealed and placed in a suitable outer container which is engraved or labelled with the name of the deceased, cremation number and the name of the Crematorium.

CONTAINER

The container should be strong enough to resist breakage in transit and yet be simple in design and of sufficient volume to contain all remains extracted from the cremator. The recommended capacity for a container is a minimum of 200 cubic inches (3280 cubic cms). The lid must fit tightly, and the fastening should be strong enough to prevent the lid being forced open by distortion of the container through maltreatment in transit.

PACKING

The container itself should be sealed by the Cremation Authority in such a way that the seal cannot be broken, unfastened, resealed or otherwise interfered with after it has left the Crematorium, without the disturbance of the seal being apparent to the recipient. It should be suitably wrapped, protected and placed within a double-strength cardboard box of the correct size. The whole should then be wrapped in a sheet of strong brown wrapping paper, secured with and/or sealed with adhesive tape. The parcel should be clearly addressed in block letters to the recipient with the name and address of the sender also indicated in block letters on the label.

DESPATCH

Cremated remains not personally collected should be sent by a secure courier service. A letter should be sent to the recipient on the same day as the despatch of the cremated remains notifying of their impending arrival. When cremated remains are to be interred or strewn in a Churchyard, Burial Ground, Cemetery or Garden of Remembrance, an appropriate certificate should be issued by the Cremation Authority and forwarded with the letter.

RECEIPT

A receipt should always be obtained by the Cremation Authority whenever cremated remains are removed from the Crematorium. When cremated remains are forwarded by the courier, the certificate of collection or other acknowledgement should be affixed to the appropriate cremation documents.

The receipt of cremated remains should always be acknowledged and it is advisable for Cremation Authorities to issue a form for this purpose for completion and return by the recipient.

INSTRUCTIONS

FOR

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FUNERAL DIRECTORS

1. RESPONSIBILITY

The Funeral Director shall observe the regulations of the Cremation Authority. The Funeral Director is responsible for the provision of sufficient bearers to convey the coffin from the hearse to the catafalque. When the coffin is in position on the catafalque or deposited in the rest room or Chapel of Rest at the Crematorium the responsibility of the Funeral Director towards it ceases and that of the Cremation Authority begins.

2. NOTICE OF CREMATION

The length of notice to be given for a cremation and the time of the cremation, as agreed, must be strictly adhered to. All statutory and non statutory forms and certificates, as required by the Cremation Authority, must reach the crematorium office by the specified time. For administrative reasons these times may vary according to local requirements.

3. CONSTRUCTION OF THE COFFIN

The coffin must be made of a suitable material which, when placed in a cremator and subjected to the cremation process, is easily combustible and which does not emit smoke, give off toxic gas or leave any retardant smears or drips after final combustion. No metal of any kind shall be used in the manufacture of such coffin except as necessary for its safe construction and then only metal of a high ferrous content. Cross pieces must not be attached to the bottom of the coffin. If it is desired to strengthen the bottom of the coffin, wooden strips may be placed lengthways for this purpose.

Cardboard coffins should not contain chlorine in the wet strength agent. (e.g. not using polyamidoamine-epichlorhydrin based resin (PAA-E). Contact should be made with the Crematorium Administration to ensure that the coffin selected is fit for the purpose of cremation.

4. COFFIN FURNITURE AND FITTINGS

No metal furniture or fittings whatever shall be used on a coffin for cremation. Coffin handles should be free from unnecessary metal components. External coatings to a coffin must allow for smokeless combustion and the use of nitro-cellulose varnish, polyurethane, melamine and any products containing polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or melamine must not be used in coffin construction or furnishings. Water based lacquer free from additives containing heavy metals may be used for coating a coffin or a suitable cloth may be used for covering a coffin. The exception to the foregoing is the use of polystyrene which is restricted to the coffin nameplate only and this must not exceed 90 grams in weight.

5. LINING OF THE COFFIN

The use of saw dust, cotton wool or shredded paper within a coffin must be avoided. If lining of a coffin is necessary, this should be manufactured from polythene not exceeding 75 microns in thickness. Lead or zinc linings must not be used. The use of shredded paper within a coffin is not permitted.

6. SIZE OF THE COFFIN

Where the external dimensions of a coffin are likely to exceed length 81 inches (206cms); width 28 inches (71cms); depth 22 inches (56cms) the proper officer of the crematorium must be consulted as soon as practicable.

7. CLOTHING AND COFFIN CONTENT

In order to minimise the release of pollutants to air, it is recommended that clothing should be of natural fibres and that shoes or any material manufactured from PVC should not be included. Body adornments manufactured from copper should be removed as should any easily removable prostheses or casts of plaster or other material. Additional items, particularly of glass or plastic, should not be placed within the coffin.

8. CREMATION OF INFANTS and FOETAL REMAINS

In cases where bereaved parents desire the cremation of an infant or of foetal remains, they should be warned that there are occasions when no tangible remains are left after the cremation process has been completed. This is due to the cartilaginous nature of the bone structure.

If the warning is not given the parents may have been denied the choice of earth burial and thereby subjected to understandable distress.

9. BODY PARTS

Body parts presented at the crematorium for cremation normally consists of soft tissue which in the absence of any bone structure will not produce any cremated remains.

10. CREMATED REMAINS

The utmost care should be taken when dealing with cremated remains. If the Funeral Director supplies an urn or casket for cremated remains it should be of sufficient internal dimension to provide a minimum of 200 cubic inches (3,280 cubic cms.) and securely labelled. The container should be strong enough to resist breakage in transit.

The lid must fit tightly and the fastening should be strong enough to prevent the lid being forced open by distortion of the container through maltreatment in transit.

QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK

ABOUT CREMATION

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QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK ABOUT CREMATION

I. Q How many of the deaths which occur in Great Britain each year result in cremation?

A Cremation has become the preferred method of disposal in Great Britain. Approximately 70% of all recorded deaths are now followed by cremation.

2. Q Are there any religious groups which forbid cremation to their members?

A All Christian denominations, including the Roman Catholic Church, allow cremation. Cremation is also acceptable to Sikhs, Hindus, Parsees and Buddhists but it is forbidden by Orthodox Religions, Jews and Moslems.

3. Q Is cremation more expensive than burial?

A Generally the cost of burial is much higher than the fee charged for cremation. In addition to the charges for the interment, a number of other fees for grave purchase, memorials and grave maintenance may be incurred. Cremation usually necessitates the production of medical certificates for which fees are payable to doctors concerned. These certificates are not required when the death has been referred to and investigated by a Coroner (Procurator Fiscal in Scotland)

4. Q What service arrangements are available at the crematorium?

A A full religious ceremony may be conducted at the crematorium within the time allowed for each funeral. Alternatively, a service may take place in any separate place of worship followed by a brief committal ceremony at the crematorium. Families can arrange for their particular Minister to conduct the service or, when required Funeral Directors may secure the services of a suitable Minister on behalf of the family.

5. Q Is it necessary for the cremation to be associated with a religions ceremony?

A The deceased's family can make any ceremony arrangements which they consider to be appropriate. Secular ceremonies can be conducted at the crematorium or, if required, no ceremony need take place. Memorial services can be conducted separately from the cremation ceremony in local places of worship by arrangement with the Minister concerned.

6. Q How is a cremation arranged?

A A number of arrangements need to be made following a death. The responsibility normally falls on the Executor or the nearest surviving relative who may wish to approach a professional Funeral Director who will undertake some of the various tasks on their behalf. The Funeral Director will need to discuss with the family their requirements concerning the service arrangements and will assist in completing the necessary statutory and non-statutory forms.
The Funeral Director will make the practical arrangements for the collection of the body and will obtain the necessary medical certificates. It will be necessary to register the death and information will be provided by the Funeral Director to assist in completing that duty.

7. Q Do relatives need to decide at this stage about the disposal of cremated remains?

A The Funeral Director will discuss with relatives the alternative arrangements which may be adopted for the disposal of cremated remains. It is likely that a form of authority will be required to be signed advising the Cremation Authority of the wishes of the family.

If they are undecided it will be possible for the cremated remains to be retained, either at the crematorium or at the Funeral Director's premises, pending a decision.

8. Q What are the normal options for disposal of cremated remains?

A All crematoria provide a Garden of Remembrance where cremated remains can be dispersed. Some crematoria provide niches where urns or caskets containing cremated remains may be placed for limited periods. Cremated remains can be removed from the crematorium in a suitable container for disposal elsewhere. This may include interment in a grave in a cemetery or churchyard, dispersal at another crematorium or dispersal privately in a particular area selected by the family. Suitable permission should be obtained from the appropriate Authority or land owner in these cases.

9. Q What is a Garden of Remembrance and what facilities may be provided there?

A The Gardens of Remembrance consist of special areas, often adjacent to the crematorium, set aside for the disposal of cremated remains. They are used continually for this purpose and as a result it may not be possible or appropriate to mark or identify the exact location of individual cremated remains. The Gardens are normally arranged to provide a focal point for visitors and may include a variety of memorial facilities.

10. Q What memorial facilities are available at crematoria?

A All crematoria have some form of memorial facility. The most usual form of permanent memorial is the Book of Remembrance. The Book is usually displayed in a special memorial chapel and entries are available for viewing either automatically on the anniversary of the date of death or on request. Some crematoria provide wall or kerb mounted plaques in stone or metal although these are normally purchased for a limited period only. Roses, trees and shrubs may be dedicated at some crematoria for periods which may be extended by agreement. Donations are often accepted for the provision of items to be used at the crematorium or for the embellishment of the buildings or grounds. The Funeral Director should be aware of the memorial options available but direct enquiries to the Manager of the Crematorium will ensure that full details are provided together with a scale of charges.

11. Q What is the procedure followed at the crematorium on the day of the funeral?

A The mourners will normally gather at the crematorium in the waiting room or close to the entrance of the chapel a few minutes before the appointed time of the funeral service. It is not usual for the ceremony to commence before the publicised time. When the principal mourners are ready to proceed, the coffin will be conveyed into the chapel by the Funeral Director unless family bearers are used by request. The coffin will be placed on the catafalque and mourners will be directed to their seats after which the service will proceed. At the moment during the service when the committal of the body takes place the coffin may be obscured from view by curtains or withdrawn from the chapel. At the end of the service the mourners leave the chapel and may then inspect the floral tributes.

12. Q What happens to the coffin after the committal?

A The coffin is withdrawn into the committal room where the nameplate is carefully checked by crematorium staff to ensure the correct identity. An identity card will then accompany the coffin and the resultant remains until their final disposal or removal from the crematorium.

13. Q Can relatives witness the committal of the coffin to the cremator?

A The reception of the coffin in the committal room and its introduction into a cremator can be witnessed by arrangement with the Manager of the Crematorium. It is preferable to advise the Funeral Director of these requirements as early as possible when making the funeral arrangements.

14. Q Is the cremation of a body governed by a code of ethics and working practices?

A Cremation Authorities who are members of the Federation of British Cremation Authorities are required to operate strictly in accordance with a Code of Cremation Practice. This Code, which provides the only ethical standard of cremation practice in Great Britain, is often displayed in the public areas of the crematorium building. A copy can be downloaded from the Federation website www.fbca.org.uk

15. Q How soon after the service will the cremation take place?

A The cremation will usually be commenced shortly after the service. A body not cremated on the same day as the coffin is received at the crematorium may only be retained at the crematorium with the written consent of the Applicant for Cremation or in circumstances deemed necessary by the Cremation Authority, including impacts upon the environment. All bodies retained at the crematorium will be accommodated in secure and sanitary conditions within the building.

16. Q Is the coffin cremated with the body?

A The Code requires that the coffin be placed in the cremator in exactly the same condition as that in which it was received at the crematorium. Crematorium regulations require that the coffin and all its fittings and furnishings be made from materials suitable for cremation. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 has placed a new responsibility on Cremation Authorities to ensure that the process is completed under controlled conditions which will minimise the impact on the environment. In these circumstances it will be necessary for any items included in the coffin for presentation or viewing purposes to be removed by the Funeral Director before the coffin is conveyed to the crematorium. It will not be possible for any floral tributes to be included with the coffin for cremation.

17. Q Should items of jewellery be left on a body for cremation?

A It is preferable that all items of jewellery be removed from the body before the coffin is conveyed to the crematorium. The Funeral Director should ascertain your wishes in respect of this matter when the funeral arrangements are being discussed. It will not be possible to recover any items of jewellery after the coffin has been received at the crematorium.

18. Q Can more than one body be cremated in a cremator at the same time?

A The Code insists that each cremation is carried out separately. Exceptions may be made for instance in the case of mother and baby or twin children providing that the next of kin has made a specific request in this regard.

19. Q What happens to the cremated remains after the cremation?

A At the conclusion of a cremation the cremated remains are removed from the cremator in their entirety and conveyed to a treatment area in a special container. Ferrous metals used in the construction of the coffin or metal used in medical implants and non-ferrous metals which may include an unrecognisable element of precious material will be disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Cremation Practice, which states “Any metal found amongst the cremated remains shall be disposed of in accordance with the directions of the Cremation Authority or Higher Authority”. The utmost care is taken to ensure that cremated remains, following their removal from the cremator, shall be kept separate from any other remains and suitably identified. The cremated remains will be placed into separate containers awaiting final disposal.

20. Q What procedures are followed to ensure that cremated remains are kept separate?

A A cremator can physically accept only one coffin at a time and all remains are removed before the cremator can be used again. Following the cremation process, all Cremated Remains are retained awaiting final disposal in separate containers which are suitably identified at all times. The identity card referred to previously accompanies the coffin and cremated remains throughout the process until final disposal, whether that is by dispersal in the Gardens of Remembrance or collection from the crematorium for final disposal elsewhere. The code of ethics and practical necessity are complementary and combine to ensure that the separation of cremated remains is achieved.

21. Q How are cremated remains treated at the crematorium?

A Cremated remains are removed from the cremator only when no further reduction is possible. The remains are withdrawn into a cooling area where any metals are removed and then placed in a suitable and carefully identified container to await dispersal or collection in accordance with the applicant's instructions.

22. Q What quantity of remains will there be following a cremation?

A The cremation of an adult will normally result in the presentation of cremated remains weighing between 2 and 4 kg. In the case of a body of an infant it may not be possible to guarantee that any remains will be available for collection following the cremation process. This is due to the cartilaginous nature of the bone structure of infants.

23. Q What quantity of remains will there be following a cremation of an infant or of foetal remains?

A In cases where bereaved parents desire the cremation of an infant or of foetal remains, they should be warned that there are occasions when no tangible remains are left after the cremation process has been completed. This is due to the cartilaginous nature of the bone structure.

24. Q Do you get any cremated remains from the cremation of body parts

A Body parts presented at the crematorium for cremation normally consists of soft tissue and in the absence of any bone structure will not produce any cremated remains.

25. Q What happens to the metal removed from the cremated remains?

A Depending on the practice carried out at a crematorium the metals may be interred within the crematorium grounds where records are kept of where the metal is interred or alternatively they can be recycled and the applicant for cremation will be asked to give authority for this to be done.

26. Q What happens to the cremated remains when they are strewn in the crematorium grounds?

A The cremated remains, which have assumed a granular form following their reduction, are normally distributed over a wide area of ground. Chemical reactions resulting from exposure to the elements quickly break down the remains so that within a few days little trace of them can be observed. Some crematoria follow the practice of dressing the area where the cremated remains have been dispersed, with a suitable mixture of loam and sand.

27. Q Can cremated remains be interred and their position marked with a memorial?

A The Gardens of Remembrance attached to a crematorium do not provide for the erection of permanent memorials. Cremated remains interred in Gardens of Remembrance are not normally contained in a casket or container of any kind. If it is the choice of the Applicant for Cremation to inter cremated remains in a grave with traditional facilities for memorialisation, then enquiries should be made to the person responsible for the respective cemetery.

28. Q Can cremated remains be retained by the family pending final disposal?

A The Applicant for cremation may collect and retain the cremated remains if required. Cremated remains can be retained at the crematorium awaiting final disposal for a limited period although a charge is often made for this facility.

29. Q What arrangements can be made to ensure that cremation is the selected method of disposal following death?

A Clear instructions in writing should be given to the person who will be responsible for making the funeral arrangements. Such instructions are not binding in law and it will therefore be necessary to ensure that the person instructed is someone who is likely to carry out the wishes of the deceased. The final decision will rest on the executors.

30. Q Can more information be obtained concerning cremation and if required can a crematorium be visited by members of the public?

A The matters referred to previously may be discussed in more detail with the Manager of the local crematorium. The Crematorium Manager will be pleased to answer further questions and make arrangements for any member of the public to be accompanied on a visit to the crematorium.

CREMATION STATISTICS

THE FEDERATION OF BURIAL AND CREMATION AUTHORITIES

Statistics 2005

The provisional figure for recorded deaths in 2005 (as at 30th March 2006) is 586,187 which is a decrease of 2,566 on the revised figure of 588,753 for the previous year. During the year 424,684 registered cremations were carried out in the UK; that is a decrease of 151 on the figure of 424,835 for 2004.

As the total number of registered deaths is provisional for 2005 it is possible that the percentage figures given in the statistics may later be adjusted.

An average of 1,712 cremations were undertaken at the 248 operational crematoria in 2005 with only Eltham Crematorium undertaking in excess of 4,000 cremations and 45 crematoria recording less than 1,000 cremations.

In addition to the above, 79 crematoria have reported carrying out a total of 453 cremations of body parts.

The foregoing figures do not include the cremation of foetal remains which are not registered under the Cremation Acts and Regulations. However 224 crematoria have recorded carrying out 30,842 cremations of foetal remains in 2005, compared with 28,906 in the year 2004.

Three new crematoria became operational in 2005 – Roucan Loch Crematorium in Dumfries, Forest Park Crematorium in Hainault, Essex and Sherwood Forest Crematorium in Nottinghamshire. All three are owned and operated by private companies.

The year of opening as noted in the statistics relates to the first crematorium owned and operated by the cremation authority in the location concerned.

Date of Opening	Crematorium		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total Since Opening
1970	Aberdare (Llwydcoed)	JC	1,171	1,245	1,306	1,195	1,275	37,890
1938	Aberdeen	M	2,362	2,470	2,490	2,413	2,385	122,383
1994	Aberystwyth	P	421	514	538	561	503	5,097
1956	Accrington (Hyndburn)	M	935	933	934	872	843	45,181
1960	Aldershot (Rushmoor)	M	1,771	1,831	1,709	1,908	1,677	86,286
1959	Altrincham (Trafford)	M	1,724	1,760	1,843	1,696	1,723	70,539
1966	Ayr (Masonhill)	M	1,506	1,544	1,608	1,548	1,348	70,768
1999	Banbury	P	627	672	728	685	761	4,481
1973	Bangor (Arfon)	M	983	943	989	1,004	998	27,537
1962	Barnsley	M	1,792	1,828	1,859	1,861	1,818	76,849
1962	Barrow-in-Furness	M	923	1,018	891	982	921	36,155
1998	Basildon	P	1,454	1,711	1,760	1,776	1,743	12,544
1998	Basingstoke	P	1,640	1,767	1,930	962	1,780	11,655
1961	Bath	M	2,014	2,061	2,003	2,005	2,018	109,229
1956	Beckenham	P	2,159	2,146	2,127	2,018	1,901	101,090
1955	Bedford	M	1,583	1,561	1,557	1,579	1,603	60,351
1961	Belfast	M	2,317	2,473	2,312	2,345	2,398	63,470
1934	Birkenhead (Wirral)	M	3,019	3,013	3,091	2,964	2,951	153,224
1937	Birmingham (Lodge Hill)	M	2,226	2,191	2,313	1,830	2,133	165,657
1903	Birmingham (Perry Barr)	P	1,186	1,194	1,172	1,152	1,100	138,989

STATISTICS

Date of Opening	Crematorium		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total since Opening
1964	Birmingham (Sutton Coldfield)	M	2,184	2,167	2,155	1,666	2,038	75,802
1952	Birmingham (Yardley)	M	1,618	1,652	1,548	1,454	1,448	110,878
1957	Birtley (Gateshead)	M	585	622	588	535	586	33,505
1956	Blackburn	M	1,424	1,618	1,536	1,441	1,470	65,482
1935	Blackpool	M	2,009	2,100	2,111	2,108	2,043	140,278
1956	Blyth	JC	1,530	1,522	1,532	1,632	1,513	62,644
1989	Bodmin	P	1,132	1,195	1,313	1,305	1,375	16,171
1954	Bolton	M	3,312	3,364	3,403	3,172	3,114	181,786
1966	Boston	M	1,922	1,877	1,980	1,955	1,809	55,678
1938	Bournemouth	M	3,412	3,450	3,624	3,229	3,304	210,208
1960	Bradford (Keighley)	M	575	502	458	511	434	22,756
1905	Bradford (Scholemoor)	M	1,297	1,295	1,167	1,217	1,164	112,840
1955	Bradford (Shipley)	M	1,282	1,372	1,315	1,307	1,391	62,110
1979	Bramcote	JC	2,715	2,925	2,600	2,776	2,848	69,748
1957	Breakspear (Ruislip)	JC	3,953	3,858	3,784	3,664	3,390	193,691
1975	Bretby (Burton-on-Trent)	JC	1,351	1,382	1,360	1,395	1,359	36,998
1970	Bridgend (Coychurch)	JC	1,640	1,769	1,772	1,761	1,782	39,395
1941	Brighton (The Downs)	P	1,287	1,184	1,376	1,302	1,324	166,732
1930	Brighton (Woodvale)	M	2,112	2,026	2,065	1,809	1,825	101,193
1928	Bristol (Arnos Vale)	P	-	-	-	-	-	102,827
1956	Bristol (Canford)	M	1,775	1,858	1,917	1,646	2,043	109,962
1971	Bristol (South)	M	1,968	2,025	1,990	1,923	2,258	57,918
1992	Bristol (Westerleigh)	P	1,605	1,771	1,949	1,745	1,852	20,684
1958	Burnley	M	1,614	1,664	1,657	1,622	1,579	80,999
1989	Bury St Edmunds	P	1,703	1,869	1,867	1,851	1,887	26,531
1938	Cambridge	M	2,681	2,816	2,808	2,715	2,712	131,322
1953	Cardiff	M	2,515	2,587	2,640	2,482	2,469	129,047
1960	Cardross (Argyll & Bute)	M	547	564	557	547	565	20,628
1956	Carlisle	M	1,701	1,757	1,759	1,686	1,491	70,174
1961	Chelmsford	M	2,482	2,552	2,585	2,428	2,513	83,842
1938	Cheltenham	M	2,017	1,947	2,180	1,976	1,986	100,021
1965	Chester	M	1,810	1,827	1,815	1,817	1,814	66,879
1959	Chesterfield	JC	2,159	2,280	2,326	2,079	2,165	85,894
1971	Chichester	P	2,461	2,528	2,288	2,427	2,362	77,297
1966	Chilterns	JC	3,030	3,070	3,102	2,999	2,981	99,052
1967	Clydebank	M	1,752	1,757	1,797	1,627	1,696	55,909
1957	Colchester	M	1,491	1,513	1,485	1,472	1,437	87,038
1957	Colwyn Bay	M	1,898	1,818	1,897	1,809	1,765	80,548
1956	Cornwall (Truro)	JC	2,584	2,636	2,699	2,518	2,438	104,628
1943	Coventry	M	2,666	2,753	2,871	2,705	2,718	150,424
1958	Crewe	M	1,231	1,280	1,535	1,220	1,274	46,546
1937	Croydon	M	2,030	2,045	2,105	1,960	1,878	148,454
1901	Darlington	M	1,902	1,850	1,941	1,821	1,853	98,685
1956	Derby (Markeaton)	M	2,961	3,064	3,200	2,930	2,954	152,295
1960	Dewsbury Moor (Kirklees)	M	1,432	1,413	1,386	1,401	1,356	64,936
1960	Doncaster	M	2,506	2,694	2,524	2,639	2,574	98,070

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Date of Opening	Crematorium		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total since Opening
1961	Douglas (Isle of Man)	M	555	558	554	523	519	20,597
1960	Dudley (Gornal Wood)	M	1,604	1,784	1,729	1,619	1,737	61,493
1953	Dukinfield (Tameside)	M	2,114	2,119	2,076	2,004	2,061	99,528
2005	Dumfries	P	-	-	-	-	435	435
1936	Dundee	P	1,686	1,746	1,729	1,577	1,636	109,100
1973	Dunfermline	M	813	835	798	819	820	22,940
1960	Durham	JC	2,240	2,350	2,240	2,328	2,445	83,977
1954	East London	P	750	755	702	647	650	29,092
1997	East Riding	P	945	1,042	1,146	1,116	1,110	8,766
1960	Eastbourne	M	2,911	2,909	2,845	2,751	2,801	114,108
1971	Easthampstead Park (Bracknell)	M	1,532	1,552	1,595	1,538	1,567	42,582
1955	Eccles (Salford)	M	814	814	822	773	741	47,782
1967	Edinburgh (Mortonhall)	M	2,819	2,850	2,943	2,693	2,920	82,375
1929	Edinburgh (Warriston Road)	P	2,366	2,233	2,293	2,235	2,147	217,780
1956	Eltham	JC	4,307	4,295	4,545	4,220	4,203	186,986
1938	Enfield (Haringey)	M	2,752	2,631	2,780	2,582	2,455	221,879
1963	Exeter & Devon	P	3,197	3,314	3,262	3,223	3,313	125,619
1962	Falkirk	M	2,127	2,300	2,319	2,239	2,206	68,445
1956	Folkestone	P	647	677	633	610	640	33,542
1997	Forest of Dean	P	691	702	746	754	737	6,104
1993	Friockheim (Parkgrove)	P	623	584	644	750	645	7,172
1966	Gateshead (Saltwell)	M	1,380	1,211	1,379	1,236	1,263	48,862
1957	Glasgow (Craigton)	P	1,015	1,057	1,048	1,003	956	61,395
1955	Glasgow (Daldowie)	M	4,216	4,166	4,305	4,025	3,440	174,877
1895	Glasgow (Maryhill)	P	1,605	1,642	1,723	1,660	1,567	140,796
1962	Glasgow (The Linn)	M	2,411	2,633	2,626	2,513	2,346	107,163
1953	Gloucester	M	1,543	1,616	1,643	1,634	1,596	74,351
1902	Golders Green	P	2,125	2,042	1,992	1,856	1,911	315,937
1966	Grantham	P	1,206	1,296	1,261	1,244	1,264	36,086
1954	Great Grimsby	M	1,729	1,739	1,841	1,740	1,703	83,024
1968	Great Yarmouth	M	1,846	1,877	1,941	1,832	1,888	54,632
1959	Greenock (Inverclyde)	M	1,017	1,143	1,042	1,028	992	41,831
1929	Guernsey (Channel Islands)	M	338	301	332	313	324	12,645
1967	Guildford	M	1,577	1,633	1,746	1,632	1,620	59,278
1960	Gwent	JC	2,690	2,688	2,691	2,737	2,667	105,299
2005	Hainault	P	-	-	-	-	674	674
1956	Halifax (Calderdale)	M	1,688	1,706	1,684	1,661	1,634	92,694
1961	Harlow	M	1,775	1,761	1,850	1,822	1,708	58,703
1936	Harrogate	M	1,382	1,399	1,427	1,459	1,380	62,992
1954	Hartlepool	M	917	961	938	913	936	41,793
1955	Hastings	M	1,455	1,436	1,474	1,422	1,329	73,964
1922	Hendon (Barnet)	M	863	919	907	939	1,013	51,634
1956	Hereford	M	1,250	1,273	1,343	1,311	1,325	47,476
2004	Holytown	P	-	-	-	265	1,010	1,275
1939	Honor Oak (Southwark)	M	1,344	1,394	1,373	1,201	1,145	124,813
1999	Howe Bridge	P	666	754	756	784	782	4,673

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Date of Opening	Crematorium		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total since Opening
1958	Huddersfield (Kirklees)	M	1,811	1,795	1,817	1,738	1,662	87,304
1901	Hull	M	2,072	2,152	2,260	2,147	2,150	157,162
1995	Inverness	M	566	606	669	696	710	6,158
1928	Ipswich	M	2,382	2,297	2,459	2,416	2,288	112,959
1997	Irvine	P	1,012	1,046	1,110	1,134	1,235	8,345
1961	Isle of Wight	JC	1,420	1,514	1,496	1,356	1,347	54,972
1937	Islington	M	970	907	1,002	944	803	51,644
1961	Jersey (Channel Islands)	M	514	569	489	501	526	18,114
1956	Kent (Barham)	P	2,326	2,349	2,355	2,346	2,360	107,295
1936	Kent (Charing)	P	1,335	1,365	1,445	1,333	1,347	101,593
1940	Kettering	M	2,247	2,401	2,445	2,361	2,364	104,551
1980	King's Lynn (Mintlyn)	M	1,880	1,990	2,027	1,915	2,018	39,930
1952	Kingston-upon-Thames	M	891	910	953	799	866	65,025
1959	Kirkcaldy	M	1,781	1,824	1,775	1,782	1,702	75,988
1958	Lambeth	M	829	780	591	684	709	46,137
1963	Lancaster	P	1,879	1,901	1,830	1,855	1,750	76,767
1961	Leatherhead	P	2,617	2,582	2,511	2,360	2,331	86,646
1938	Leeds (Cottingley Hall)	M	1,412	1,491	1,439	1,434	1,350	85,682
1905	Leeds (Lawnswood)	M	2,353	2,270	2,184	2,126	2,134	192,256
1959	Leeds (Rawdon)	M	1,901	2,004	1,969	1,875	1,837	77,965
1902	Leicester	M	3,437	3,377	3,570	3,412	3,382	178,840
1939	Leith (Seafield)	P	760	810	819	801	748	46,982
1956	Lewisham	M	1,483	1,301	1,526	1,441	1,428	80,102
1968	Lincoln	M	1,577	1,635	1,737	1,699	1,640	53,295
1896	Liverpool (Anfield)	M	2,039	1,992	2,123	1,995	1,890	166,040
1975	Liverpool (Springwood)	M	2,272	2,356	2,290	2,212	2,140	68,621
2002	Llanelli	P	-	175	910	818	890	2,793
1905	London (City)	M	3,685	3,751	3,616	3,269	2,967	240,864
1960	Loughborough	P	1,693	1,635	1,817	1,742	1,752	61,522
1960	Luton	M	2,075	1,946	2,010	1,892	1,890	102,170
1958	Lytham St Annes (Fylde)	M	1,400	1,359	1,416	1,340	1,399	58,195
1960	Macclesfield	M	1,601	1,630	1,713	1,549	1,585	54,296
1962	Maidstone	M	2,031	2,105	2,007	1,606	1,580	73,461
1959	Manchester (Blackley)	M	1,249	1,231	1,240	1,170	1,130	59,912
1892	Manchester (Chorlton)	P	2,461	2,347	2,361	2,224	2,268	232,133
1955	Manor Park	P	593	564	604	673	625	38,491
1960	Mansfield & District	JC	2,944	3,022	3,108	2,749	2,945	110,233
1959	Medway	M	2,733	2,824	2,875	2,711	2,706	111,209
1961	Middlesbrough	M	3,727	3,741	3,664	3,642	3,718	141,872
1952	Middleton (Rochdale)	M	458	410	417	431	398	25,311
1971	Mid-Warwicks	M	1,829	1,943	1,843	1,931	1,975	56,982
1982	Milton Keynes	M	1,608	1,578	1,668	1,655	1,633	31,229
1999	Moray	P	327	357	370	384	409	2,283
1939	Mortlake	JB	2,324	2,411	2,455	2,427	2,299	160,001
1966	Mountsett (Dipton)	JC	1,269	1,273	1,326	1,213	1,232	48,396
1957	New Southgate	P	962	972	966	880	921	35,695

STATISTICS

Date of Opening	Crematorium		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total since Opening
1965	Newcastle-under-Lyme	M	1,380	1,487	1,612	1,420	1,301	48,861
1934	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	M	3,110	3,228	3,051	2,952	3,038	221,523
1966	North Devon (Barnstaple)	JC	1,417	1,349	1,451	1,415	1,340	44,316
1958	North East Surrey	JB	1,833	1,753	1,796	1,618	1,534	81,457
1939	Northampton	P	1,792	1,938	1,916	1,840	1,769	90,781
1964	Norwich (Earlham Road)	P	1,436	1,612	1,491	1,592	1,608	44,387
1937	Norwich (Horsham St Faith)	P	2,383	2,555	2,393	2,338	2,329	132,927
1915	Norwood (Lambeth)	M	502	526	560	668	704	39,430
1931	Nottingham	M	2,427	2,309	2,582	2,137	2,094	203,308
1957	Nuneaton	P	1,732	1,842	1,883	1,930	1,972	59,918
1953	Oldham	M	1,541	1,647	1,706	1,550	1,627	79,289
2005	Ollerton	P	-	-	-	-	12	12
1939	Oxford	P	2,672	2,657	2,790	2,729	2,687	144,054
1938	Paisley	P	1,492	1,569	1,530	1,516	1,466	95,812
1966	Pentrebychan (Wrexham)	JC	1,587	1,667	1,675	1,604	1,653	47,085
1962	Perth	M	1,080	1,147	1,144	1,144	1,070	44,355
1958	Peterborough	M	2,319	2,345	2,409	2,227	2,360	87,996
1934	Plymouth (Efford)	M	1,440	1,398	1,399	1,314	1,123	92,887
1967	Plymouth (Weston Mill)	M	1,277	1,471	1,501	1,338	1,480	54,263
1959	Pontefract (Wakefield)	M	1,807	1,804	1,748	1,776	1,700	69,529
1924	Pontypridd	M	1,434	1,427	1,453	1,429	1,406	102,161
1985	Poole	M	2,242	2,384	2,402	2,266	2,319	44,248
1969	Port Talbot (Margam)	JC	1,514	1,394	1,401	1,378	1,352	48,248
1958	Portchester	JC	4,211	4,248	4,372	4,134	3,987	172,023
1962	Preston	M	1,642	1,664	1,695	1,546	1,652	68,108
1932	Reading	M	2,042	2,164	1,983	2,068	1,947	110,368
1973	Redditch	M	1,138	1,120	1,197	1,287	1,240	27,590
1938	Rochdale	M	1,409	1,467	1,514	1,452	1,511	101,290
1962	Rotherham	M	1,802	1,955	1,959	1,907	1,894	67,458
1962	Rowley Regis (Sandwell)	M	971	966	998	957	951	32,418
1957	Salford	M	1,196	1,236	1,282	1,233	1,126	54,263
1960	Salisbury	M	1,590	1,615	1,578	1,732	1,507	66,750
1961	Scarborough	M	1,130	1,136	1,171	1,118	1,070	63,980
1964	Scunthorpe	M	1,386	1,415	1,538	1,414	1,463	50,893
1905	Sheffield (City Road)	M	1,679	1,586	1,610	1,491	1,533	191,358
1998	Sheffield (Grenoside)	P	1,412	1,526	1,509	1,507	1,633	10,609
1974	Sheffield (Hutcliffe Wood)	M	1,954	1,934	1,969	1,850	1,947	67,912
1958	Shrewsbury	M	1,849	1,930	1,934	1,898	1,813	88,984
2003	Sittingbourne	P	-	-	243	651	684	1,578
1952	Skipton (Craven)	M	807	965	994	924	920	47,775
1963	Slough	M	1,797	1,740	1,647	1,670	1,593	67,740
1958	Solihull (Robin Hood)	M	2,072	2,109	2,118	2,004	1,956	86,068
2000	Solihull (Woodlands)	M	431	492	534	650	606	2,763
1957	South Essex	JC	3,999	4,157	4,310	3,983	3,799	165,889
1961	South Shields (Tyneside)	M	1,359	1,442	1,552	1,493	1,520	57,704
1954	South West Middlesex	JB	2,465	2,537	2,490	2,378	2,344	136,921

STATISTICS

Date of Opening	Crematorium		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total since Opening
1932	Southampton	M	3,366	3,633	3,660	3,659	3,518	181,215
1953	Southend-on-Sea	M	2,586	2,543	2,580	2,410	2,380	142,211
1959	Southport (Sefton)	M	1,882	1,943	1,867	1,852	1,853	72,296
1962	St Helens	M	2,035	2,057	2,120	2,025	2,029	68,295
1937	St Marylebone	P	744	699	678	598	633	81,194
1964	Stafford	M	1,557	1,549	1,620	1,555	1,659	44,923
1997	Stevenage	P	1,843	1,911	1,957	1,838	1,936	15,952
1934	Stockport	M	2,364	2,413	2,313	2,257	2,309	138,165
1940	Stoke-on-Trent	M	1,886	2,019	1,971	2,011	2,056	111,693
1960	Stourbridge (Dudley)	M	1,740	1,795	1,848	1,766	1,761	64,819
1936	Streatham	P	1,324	1,276	1,359	1,208	1,169	202,290
1951	Sunderland	M	2,492	2,603	2,546	2,440	2,424	125,193
1956	Surrey & Sussex	P	3,252	3,250	3,314	3,164	3,212	133,685
1956	Swansea	M	2,709	2,667	2,265	2,172	2,088	119,179
1966	Swindon (Thamesdown)	M	1,920	1,928	1,908	1,914	1,976	62,844
1963	Taunton	JC	2,292	2,315	2,419	2,233	2,291	80,559
2000	Telford	P	888	981	958	987	1,032	5,533
1966	Thanet	M	1,686	1,706	1,750	1,666	1,703	66,664
1963	Thornton (Sefton)	M	1,603	1,591	1,562	1,477	1,550	56,253
1956	Torquay	M	2,722	2,664	2,781	2,589	2,527	118,933
1958	Tunbridge Wells	M	2,058	2,124	2,202	2,026	1,957	89,209
1959	Tynemouth (North Tyneside)	M	1,027	1,146	1,117	1,070	987	44,968
1961	Wakefield	M	1,125	1,194	1,133	1,192	1,209	43,873
1955	Walsall	M	1,821	1,872	1,911	2,007	1,797	69,101
1938	Wandsworth	M	1,511	1,458	1,497	1,366	1,386	104,634
1964	Warrington	JC	1,795	1,880	1,932	1,921	1,978	64,761
1986	Weeley (Tendring)	M	1,622	1,750	1,653	1,638	1,738	30,132
1961	West Bromwich (Sandwell)	M	1,916	1,842	1,976	1,820	1,810	71,573
1958	West Hertfordshire	JC	3,194	3,288	3,258	3,293	3,186	153,046
1939	West London	P	1,280	1,294	1,263	1,108	1,094	78,930
1968	West Wales (Narberth)	JC	1,326	1,368	1,335	1,252	1,334	38,734
1996	West Wiltshire	P	1,488	1,512	1,569	1,533	1,567	13,999
1966	Weston-Super-Mare	M	1,704	1,643	1,769	1,726	911	53,223
1939	Weymouth	M	1,194	1,289	1,271	1,186	1,242	57,613
1974	Whitehaven (Copeland)	M	815	880	867	862	874	25,417
1960	Whitley Bay (North Tyneside)	M	756	781	792	792	768	31,098
1959	Widnes (Halton)	M	562	579	580	528	547	25,279
1955	Wigan	M	1,367	1,323	1,341	1,314	1,242	59,215
1998	Willerby	P	1,190	1,336	1,306	1,315	1,316	9,382
1885	Woking	P	1,702	1,699	1,677	1,624	1,594	142,406
1954	Wolverhampton	M	2,487	2,416	2,622	2,575	2,582	121,943
1960	Worcester	M	1,931	1,942	2,020	1,996	1,977	71,740
1968	Worthing	M	3,298	3,255	3,355	3,164	3,196	125,556
1971	Yeovil	JC	1,547	1,792	1,657	1,621	1,635	45,823
1962	York	M	2,078	2,117	2,142	2,018	1,995	86,338

STATISTICS

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
ANNUAL TOTALS OF CREMATIONS:	428,383	437,124	442,538	424,835	424,684
GRAND TOTAL:	19,939,648				
NUMBER OF DEATHS:					
England/Wales	533,532	536,854	541,839	517,782	515,837
Scotland	57,678	58,381	58,768	56,504	56,037
N Ireland	14,625	14,708	14,570	14,467	14,313
TOTAL DEATHS	605,835	609,943	615,177	588,753	586,187*
TOTAL CREMATIONS	428,383	437,124	442,538	424,835	424,684
CREMATIONS AS A PERCENTAGE OF DEATHS:					
England/Wales & Scotland	72.1%	73.0%	73.3%	73.6%	73.8%*
N Ireland	15.8%	16.8%	15.9%	16.2%	16.8%*
UK TOTAL	70.7%	71.7%	71.9%	72.2%	72.4%*

* Provisional figures at 30th March 2006

Total deaths figures for the years 2001 to 2004 supplied by the Office for National Statistics with provisional figures for the year 2005 calculated on the basis of information available at 30th March 2006.

M - Municipal P - Proprietary JC - Joint Committee JB - Joint Board

The figures relating to the number of deaths are Crown Copyright and have been kindly supplied with the assistance of the Office for National Statistics, the Office of the General Register of Scotland and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

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Fax: 0141 562 2346

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Fax: 01481 725887

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Broadwater, New Pond Road, Godalming GU7 3DB Fax: 01483 532637

GWENT Tel/Fax: 01633 482784
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HARROGATE Tel: 01423 883523
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