

Your Ref

Our Ref

Date

Email

6 June 2025



Fermanagh & Omagh  
District Council

Comhairle Ceantair  
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Alison McCullagh  
Chief Executive

Committee for Finance

### **Death, Still-Births and Baby Loss Bill**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide views on the Deaths, Still-Births and Baby Loss Bill.

It is a positive step forward to help those dealing with bereavement and the implementation of The Coronavirus Act 2020 has led to a more efficient, user friendly and compassionate death and still-birth registration service.

I agree with the implementation of Option 3 to amend the existing order which will make the provisions for deaths and still births, contained in the Coronavirus Act 2020, permanent, and to bring equality into play for same sex female couples as with opposite sex couples registering still-births. Many parents have commented on their desire to have their baby loss recognised by means of a certificate when they have experienced this loss before 24 weeks of the pregnancy.

### **Comments on Clauses**

Clauses 2; 5 -13: agree

Clause 3 &4: include electronic delivery of documents without delay. This should avoid unnecessary delays in receiving Medical Cause of Death Certificates (MCCDs) and Still-Birth Certificates from hospitals and health centres. Our office can encounter MCCDs not arriving with registrars promptly, particularly when a cremation is being organised, which causes additional administration and following up with hospitals, health centres and nursing homes and distress to the bereaved family.

I would also ask that the following two points are taken into consideration, firstly, a review of the terminology "disposal of the body" on documents and forms would be helpful as it causes distress to families if seen on documents used by undertakers. Secondly, a communication campaign to inform people of when the Bill is implemented to advise the public of any new permanent process for remote registrations. Our Registration Service would be happy to do this via our own social media channels, but a national campaign would also assist with messaging.

I wish to request that the information contained in this response is treated as confidential.

Yours sincerely

  
Hazel Anderson  
Registrar