

From:

Sent: 04 July 2025 12:46

To: >

Subject: RE: NI Assembly Committee for Finance; Deaths, Still Births and Baby Loss Bill [Councils]

Hello Stephen

I hope you're well. I am contacting you in relation to your email below.

While I recognise that this consultation is now closed, the consultation was raised during open business of one of the Council's Committee meeting this week.

As such, while I am unsure if you will be able to note the points below for inclusion in the consultation outcomes or not, but I would be grateful if they could be noted generally:

Regarding the Department of Finance's Deaths, Still-Births and Baby Loss Bill the Council/ Registration Department are happy to support Option 3 to Amend the existing Order.

The Council would agree with making permanent the remote death and still-birth registration procedures that operated under the Coronavirus Act 2020. Registration staff have been carrying out this function since 2020 and staff have had positive feedback from the public regarding this procedure as it is more user friendly at a time of great loss to the family.

However, regarding points 12 & 13 below

- 12: The registration service will be able to transmit and receive documentation electronically from the stakeholders when registering deaths and still-births instead of documentation being provided in paper form.
- 13: The medical practitioner will be able to complete the MCCD and send it electronically to the registrar for the district in which the deceased died as opposed to giving it to the informant to take to the registrar.

It would be helpful if the MCCD from the Doctor was transmitted in a more timely manner, as we often have to chase these up with hospitals or surgeries, which is time consuming for staff and stressful for the family who don't understand why there is a delay.

The loss of a baby under 24 weeks is a very distressing time for parents and the introduction of a Baby Loss Certificate Scheme will give parents some much needed comfort that their baby is formally recognised. The Council also query whether a cost should be incurred for the charges for the long birth certificates for stillborn babies.

The Council/Registration Department welcomes the widening of some areas of the registration procedures to bring equality to registration procedures.

I appreciate your time in relation to this response, and I would appreciate if you could note receipt of this information.

Kind regards

Policy Engagement & Equality Officer
Mid Ulster District Council (Dungannon Office)