

Association of Registrars of Scotland

The Association of Registrars of Scotland (ARoS) is a professional body established in 1865 to represent Registration Staff in Scotland. When registration staff become qualified they are invited to become members of the Association. At the Annual General Meeting, members elect an Executive Council to represent them and work on their behalf. The Executive Council then proposes officer bearers. The Executive Council meets 3 times a year and reports back to the members via the ARoS website and at the AGM. In 2010 the membership was 175 which represented 30 different Local Authorities. ARoS is a member of the European Association of Registrars.

Certification of Death (Scotland) Bill Stage 1 Report

ARoS welcomes the opportunity to comment on the steps the Government intends to take regarding the increase in the number of cases which will be reviewed under the above act.

ARoS feels the increase in the number of reviews is excessive and will cause distress to more families than originally proposed. The comments made by the faith-based community witnesses, regarding the grieving process being more difficult if delays are introduced or, the bereaved becoming anxious of a system they do not see a reason for, is relevant in all cases regardless of faith.

Any delay to the registration causes distress to relatives who come to register a death. This already happens regularly when an MCCD is not properly completed and we are required to contact a doctor. An additional delay brought about by the review process was accepted by ARoS but considering the numbers were small and over the country a random review would happen so infrequently we did not see it as a major issue. However now that it has been proposed that around 13,500 be reviewed at level one and 500 – 1000 at level two, this becomes a larger problem to more members of the public. This is compounded by also having to pay to register a death.

We would like to know if, when the reasonableness test was applied, did it take in to consideration the emotional state of bereaved relatives?

ARoS accepts that test sites are being proposed to assess whether the system is working in the reviews and other areas and hopes that the views of the public will be sought and considered during the test period.

Alison Quigley
Honorary Secretary
Association of Registrars of Scotland