The Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the steps that the Minister for Public Health and Sport, Shona Robinson has outlined that the Scottish Government intends to take in response to concerns raised by witnesses in relation to the Bill.

I can say that although the Federation would have preferred to see the Scottish Government adopt a level of scrutiny in respect of Death Certification similar to that being proposed for England and Wales, it accepts that the current proposals will bring about a significant improvement in the level of scrutiny likely to be achieved. The Federation welcomes the addition of the 25% Level 1 reviews, and the 100% increase in the Level 2 reviews but would ask that every effort is made to minimise delays to funeral plans as a result of the scrutiny process.

The Federation is also pleased to see that the Committee considers that the responsibility for assessing the validity of documentation in cases of repatriation of the deceased for burial or cremation should be exercised centrally.

In conclusion I would confirm that the Federation agrees with the Committee’s concern that it might still be possible for a medical practitioner to sign an MCCD without examining the body of the deceased. The Federation would like to add weight to the Committee’s point in drawing this matter to the Minister’s attention and requests that further consideration should be given to this point in order to resolve this anomaly.

Yours sincerely

Richard J Powell
Secretary