

Death Certification Review Service (DCRS) – Deaths Abroad

Handy Guide for Funeral Directors and Administration Staff

DCRS is responsible for supporting the safe arrangement of a burial or cremation in Scotland if someone has died abroad



You cannot bury or cremate a person who has died abroad without authorisation from DCRS

We aim to approve repatriation to Scotland applications within 5 working days



In exceptional circumstances this may take longer if a case requires reporting to Procurator Fiscal or translation of documents is required

As soon as you are made aware of a potential repatriation you should contact us



Once DCRS have received the required paperwork and this is in order, we can progress the application

A DCRS Medical Reviewer (an experienced doctor) will carry out a Level 2 review



This includes reviewing the deceased's primary healthcare records and speaking to their GP

Under Scottish legislation, if the death is sudden, suspicious or unexplained a report to the Procurator Fiscal may be required. The Medical Reviewer will let you know if this is needed



When the Medical Reviewer is satisfied that the paperwork is in order, they will issue the required documents to proceed with funeral arrangements

For more information on deaths abroad please visit our website or contact us:
Death Certification Review Service: deaths abroad – Healthcare Improvement Scotland
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Tel: 0300 123 1898