



NHS Education for Scotland

Bereavement Education Conference 2022: 'Faith, cultural and spiritual considerations after death where an early burial is required' Promo clip

Speaker: Ephraim Borowski, Director, Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

Well thank you very much indeed for inviting me to participate in this conference on the part of the Jewish Community in Scotland. My name is Ephraim Borowski and I am the Director of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, as you can see over my shoulder. We have an interest in the entire process of death registration because traditionally, Jewish funerals take place very quickly, if possible on the day of death. And what matters more than that - it's not an entirely ritual matter - it's that until that takes place, until the funeral takes place, it's not really possible for the bereaved to begin the process of grieving, mourning and coming to terms with their loss, and that was actually recognised explicitly in Dame Janet Smith's report on the Shipman case.

So we had concerns about the introduction of medical review because initially it looked like it was going to be another step in the process and at the same time, instead of being able to arrange the funeral in parallel with death registration as we had previously, it was going to be a criminal offence to hold the funeral without having the paperwork literally in your hands.

So you can see why that would give rise to concerns in the Community and not just the Jewish Community but other minorities as well. So we were very grateful indeed to the Scottish Government for listening to us and the NHS for putting the systems in place that allows us to deal with these concerns through the process of Advanced Registration as it's called. And the result of that and the cooperation of the Medical Review Service and the Registrars and so on, actually what has happened has remarkably been, that it's been possible for funerals to take place with even fewer delays than happened in the past. So from our perspective this is actually now a good-news story.

The film was produced in October 2022 and can be found at <https://www.sad.scot.nhs.uk/events/2022-conference/> or <https://vimeo.com/782544137>

For more information visit www.sad.scot.nhs.uk or contact supportarounddeath@nes.scot.nhs.uk

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