

Appointment: Medical Referee under Cremation (Jersey) Regulations 1961

Background

Under [article 2A](#) of the [Cremation \(Jersey\) Regulations 1961](#), the Minister may appoint as a medical referee any person recommended by the Medical Officer of Health to the Minister for such appointment. Medical Referees have the power to grant or refuse an application for cremation.

A Medical Referee may give 'authority to cremate' when they are satisfied that an application for cremation is in order. It is the final check that there is no reason why a body may not be disposed of by cremation, after which time no post-mortem examination of the remains would be possible. It is an essential safeguard enabling further enquiries to be made, such as if there was any doubt as to the cause of death, any suspicious circumstances, or any reason why the death should be referred to the Deputy Viscount (in their role as Coroner) or their advice sought. Whilst the majority of cremation authorisations are straightforward to process and authorise, the Medical Referee must act with due care and diligence in every case to ensure that all documentation required for authorisation is correct and completed to the standard required before authorisation can be granted.

Issue

Currently, the powers are only vested in the Medical Officer of Health and Dr Peter Southall. It is advised that by appointing an additional Medical Referee, this will provide support and resilience to the team.

Recommendation

The Medical Officer of Health, with regard to the UK Ministry of Justice guidance on the appointment of Medical Referees, has recommended Dr Lisa Macey for appointment. Vesting the responsibility in Dr Macey as an additional Medical Referee creates a more resilient team structure to cover periods when either the Medical Officer of Health or Dr Southall are unavailable. The Medical Officer of Health is satisfied that Dr Macey is:

- A registered medical practitioner of at least 5 years' standing.
- A colleague of good professional standing with the character, experience and qualifications required of a Medical Referee.
- A colleague with no record of any complaints, hearings, or warnings to or by the General Medical Council.

The Minister is recommended to appoint Dr Lisa Macey as Medical Referee under the [Cremation \(Jersey\) Regulations 1961](#).

Resource Implications

Dr Macey will work on a part-time basis and any additional financial implications to cover her remuneration will be met from within the existing budget of the Medical Officer of Health.