

East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/507047

I am undertaking a study on the numbers of Public Health/Welfare Funerals undertaken by LA's in Scotland. I would appreciate it if you would provide answers to the following FOI request.

1. The total number of public health funerals (where the deceased has no relatives or there is no one else willing to pay) that your LA has undertaken for the financial years 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18?

- 2015/16 9
- 2016/17 14
- 2017/18 12

2. The number of public health funerals that your LA has undertaken by gender for the past 3 financial years?

- 2015/16 Male: 5 Female 4
- 2016/17 Male: 6 Female 8
- 2017/18 Male: 6 Female 6

3. The number of public health funerals that your LA has undertaken by age for the past 3 financial years?

The age of the deceased persons is not recorded. I can confirm however, the information provided in this response is for adults 18+

Since April 2015, how many cases have there been where family and friends refuse to finance or make arrangements for their relatives funeral?

This information is not recorded

4. How much have the burials/cremations cost the LA broken down by year for the last three financial years? This cost information does not need to include administrative or staff costs, and before any costs are claimed back by the local authority from the deceased's estate

- 2015/16 £34,127.44
- 2016/17 £36,932.66
- 2017/18 £37,008.45

5. How much does your trust typically (average cost) pay for a Public Health Funeral?

£3189.40

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6. What does your LA provide at a Public Health Funeral?

Note in paper. Collection of body from mortuary, provision of hears but no other vehicles, preparation of body(not embalming), cremation and, if required, a service. Ashes returned to family if requested.

7. What relationship do you have with your local NHS Trust regarding funerals of this nature?

The funerals are arranged independently from NHS colleagues.

8. Have you observed any of the following over the last three years?

NIL return to all questions below.

- Higher numbers of people dying without any income or assets
- Higher numbers of people dying with family or friends unable to contribute to the costs of a funeral
- Higher numbers of people dying with family or friends unwilling to contribute to the costs of a funeral
- Higher numbers of people dying with no friends or family

Addition:

Some information is also published on ELC's website. This is broken down into calendar years as opposed to financial years:

http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/site/custom_scripts/foi_download_index.php?filterYear=-1&filterMonth=-1&filterDay=-1&filterTopic=15&filterSubTopic=42