

Message from Scottish Health Council

Dear All,

[Call for interest – taking part in a focus group meeting on 12 August 2014](#)

The Certification of Death (Scotland) Act 2011 contains a number of changes to the current system of death certification. In particular it aims to:

- streamline the current process
- improve the accuracy of death certification , and
- provide improved public health information about causes of death in Scotland.

Taking effect in April 2015, the changes have implications for all of Scotland. For example, whereas under the current system burial can take place before the death is registered, under the new system this will no longer be the case since new checks in the accuracy of Medical Certificates of Cause of Death (MCCDs) are introduced.

In preparation for the changeover, Health Improvement Scotland, the organisation charged with the implementation of the Death Certification Review programme and running the service, will provide three focus group sessions across Scotland. Seeking views from island and remote and rural communities, Health Improvement Scotland has requested Scottish Health Council in Orkney to host one of the three sessions.

The Orkney session will be attended by members of the national implementation group and aims to:

- provide information to participants about the review procedure, the background to it and why it is being introduced
- seek participants' views on the review procedure
- seek participants' views on information and forms being used as part of the process. For example, for ease of understanding and accessibility.

The Orkney session will take place on 12 August 2014 at the Kirkwall Library (McGillivray room) from 1pm to 4pm (tbc).

If this is of interest to you, or if you know someone who might be interested in taking part, we would be most grateful if you could get back to us soon as possible by return email, providing your contact details.

We will then get back to you with further details and confirmation of a place. Health Improvement Scotland will be able to reimburse reasonable travel expenses on the day. Teas and coffee will also be available.

Please contact our administrator Karen Miller by email at karenmiller@scottishhealthcouncil.org or by phone on 01856 852957.