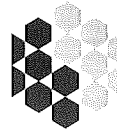


Departmental Solicitor's Office

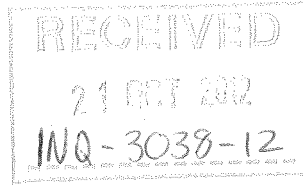


Department of
**Finance and
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Mr Brian McLoughlin
Arthur House
41 Arthur Street
BELFAST BT1 4GB



Your Ref: BMcL - 0012-12
Our Ref: LIT 0477/08/CR

Date: 19th November 2012

Dear Sir

**RE: INFORMATION SOUGHT IS IN RELATION TO DHSSPS "GUIDANCE ON DEATH,
STILLBIRTH AND CREMATION CERTIFICATION"**

I refer to correspondence from Brian McLoughlin dated 17th October 2012 and would advise that the Department would respond to the queries raised therein as follows: -

(a) Please confirm the date on which this Guidance document was first published?

August 2008.

(b) Prior to publication of this document was there any published guidance dealing with death certification in Northern Ireland? If there was, please provide a copy of any such guidance, and the date of publication.

Prior to this, there was no guidance published by the DHSSPS dealing with death certification in Northern Ireland.

However, the Births and Deaths Registration (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 places a statutory legal duty on all doctors to provide, without delay, a certificate of cause of death if, to the best of their knowledge, that person died of natural causes for which they had treated that person in the previous 28 days. There is also a general requirement under Section 7 of the Coroners Act (Northern Ireland) 1959 that any death must be reported to the coroner if it resulted, directly or indirectly, from any cause other than the natural illness or disease for which the deceased had been seen and treated within 28 days of death.

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Medical certificates of cause of death (MCCD) are produced by the General Registrars office (GRO). The booklet of certificates contains notes and suggestions for the certifying doctor. These notes were revised in 1974.

A copy of the booklet (2007 version) is attached for information.

A few minor changes have been made to the MCCD itself since this version, such as the inclusion of space for a printed version of the doctor's name and the GMC number.

(c) In particular, was there any published guidance relating to death certification in Northern Ireland, in the year 2000? If so, please provide a copy and the date of publication.

The guidance in the Medical certificates of cause of death booklet was available in 2000.

I understand the Coroners service Northern Ireland are replying on any information available from their service

Should you require any further details please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



CATHERINE RODGERS

for The Solicitor

Direct Dial: [REDACTED]