

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7SD-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods

Submitted on 2025-06-04 10:48:37

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

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Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Not confidential

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Will be problematic for Muslims

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

No

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

No

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

No

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Yes licensing

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

No

From: [REDACTED]
Sent on: 04 June 2025 10:53:19
To: [bcnfm](#)
Subject: Consultation - New Funerary Methods

[REDACTED]

Re: New funerary methods - The consultation period for this project is open until 4 September 2025).

Dear Commissioner,

Islamic Guidance on Burial Methods: A Response

In Islam, the treatment of the deceased is governed by clear principles derived from the Qur’an, Sunnah, and scholarly consensus. The following outlines the Islamic perspective on why methods such as alkaline hydrolysis (water cremation/resomation) and human composting (natural organic reduction) are not permissible, along with a response grounded in Islamic teachings:

1. Sanctity of the Human Body

Islam teaches that the human body remains sacred even after death, having served as a vessel for the soul that worshipped Allah. The Qur’an emphasises the inherent dignity of mankind:

“We have certainly honoured the children of Adam...” (Qur’an 17:70)

Subjecting the body to unnatural dissolution through chemical or accelerated decomposition processes contradicts this fundamental honour.

2. Obligation of Burial

The Sunnah of the Prophet (peace be upon him) and the consistent practice of Muslims throughout history have established burial in the ground as the prescribed method. The Prophet (peace be upon him) instructed:

“Hasten the funeral rites.” (Bukhari & Muslim)

Traditional burial ensures the body decomposes naturally in a dignified manner, maintaining the sanctity of the human form.

3. Prohibition Against Altering Allah’s Creation

The Qur’an states:

“And I will mislead them, and I will arouse in them [sinful] desires, and I will command them so they will slit the ears of cattle, and I will command them so they will change the creation of Allah.” (Qur’an 4:119)

The use of chemicals or artificial processes to dissolve or rapidly decompose the body is viewed as unnaturally altering Allah’s creation, contrary to divine will.

4. Respect for the Deceased

The Prophet (peace be upon him) forbade the mutilation of the dead, even during warfare (Bukhari). Processes such as alkaline hydrolysis, which dissolves the body into liquid, or composting, which transforms remains into soil, are considered forms of disrespect as they fail to maintain the body’s integrity.

5. Environmental Considerations and Shari’ah Compliance

Whilst some advocate for these methods on environmental grounds, Islamic burial practices are inherently sustainable, utilising simple shrouds without embalming and allowing for natural decomposition. The paramount consideration must be adherence to divine law rather than convenience or contemporary trends.

6. Scholarly Consensus

Islamic scholars worldwide, including established bodies such as the Islamic Fiqh Council, have consistently affirmed that only

traditional burial is permissible, whilst cremation and similar methods remain forbidden.

Suggested Response to Proponents of Alternative Methods

“As Muslims, we adhere strictly to the Islamic method of burial, which ensures dignity for the deceased whilst complying with divine law. Although new methods may claim environmental benefits, they conflict with our religious obligation to honour the human body as created by Allah. Islamic burial practices are already environmentally sustainable, and we cannot compromise our faith for alternative practices that dissolve or artificially decompose the body. We respectfully request that Muslim rights to traditional burial be recognised and protected in legislation.”

[REDACTED]

04/06/2025

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7SS-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods

Submitted on 2025-06-04 10:51:39

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Draycott and Church Wilne Parish Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

Derbyshire

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

No

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Licensing should definitely be part of the regulation of specific new funerary methods

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

all three

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

2 - new powers as the old powers are not enough to put people off

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

A trial would be an excellent idea as it will iron out any issues. The trial should incorporate the full process from the point of death through to internment (if required) of the remains so that the whole process is reviewed and process mapped out.

Often, the end process (interment) is forgotten about, but is the cemetery that deals with the family post internment

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

1 - people in grief status don't always understand / take in what the funeral director is informing them of. The responsibility for doing this in a lawful manner should lie with the funeral director / person recommending and conducting the funerary method

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

yes to deter this from happening

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7ST-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods

Submitted on 2025-06-04 12:27:11

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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N/A

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

No

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

No

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes - 100%

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Absolutely

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Viewings of the process? Should they be allowed?

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

A substantial fine or threat of imprisonment

Please share your views below:

Yes

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

n/A

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

n/A

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7SN-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-05 10:30:17

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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It's fine

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

I've heard and seen good restorative properties from human composting in controlled places my concern in UK is where the compost will be deposited ie some can be taken home and used in gardens and tubs which is great if you have family with gardens and they are happy for their loved ones remains to be there, on the other hand if no gardens are available where will the compost go? Too keep respect and honour the person there needs too be specific places like memorial woods or landscapes not just dumped on brownfield sites.

Please share your views below:

I'm in favour of the Canadian composting it's done so beautifully laying loved ones on soft mix then family can place flowers and the mix around .. I've heard about liquid cremation just concerned where the sludge would go and how it would be processed? And any leaking into the environment

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

As above both need specific legislation

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please listen too death doulas and independent funeral directors

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

These should not be used as a cash cow system. I agree in regulation but funeral poverty is real so costs must be affordable so no hefty cost in registration please

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

All of above. Create death remembrance parks

Please share your views below:

Families should be allowed too use the compost at home or scatter the compost like ashes.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

This is why I'm u sure of liquid cremation

You still have a little time too gather evidence from the composting burial

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Agree and should be fitting of the crime not a slap on the wrist

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Too make councils accept new and eco savvy burial and not use them too increase their budget! Like cremation does at the mo... pricing should be capped not a free for all as it is at the moment

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Agree need to rigorously try

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

I believe not knowing is not a defence

Consultation Question 15.

No

Please share your views below:

10000 as they can make 1000 easily from this

Please share your views below:

Yes they are like fraudsters personally I would bring back stocks and have their pictures on crime watch

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Ok

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Again where would the end product go? I'm more concerned with the sludge and chemicals rather than compost

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7S8-R

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods

Submitted on 2025-06-06 16:07:29

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

N/A

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Yes I believe licensing should be part of the regulatory framework for new funerary methods

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

yes it should have regard for the three principles listed

Please share your views below:

I think the three principles are proportionate and sensible

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Yes I agree with points 1 and 2 above - they seem very sensible protections - there has to be accountability for nefarious actions

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes having a trial or pilot would be sensible - as issues which may currently be unknown but require inclusion in the final piece of legislation could be identified during any trial or pilot scheme

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

I agree with item 2 - in that a person can be found guilty even if they do not know a funerary method they are carrying out is not regulated - there needs to be a framework around this industry to preserve the three principles

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Yes I agree it should include a period of imprisonment

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

I believe that the proposals set out in the consultation paper are sensible and proportionate - they would not impact a reputable provider and would protect bereaved families against disreputable providers

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

I do not believe this will impact any group or breach the Equalities Act

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

N/A

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7S4-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-07 11:37:04

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None relevant

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

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Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

n/a

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

'Resomation' is available in the Republic of Ireland and if not available in the United Kingdom [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and I am still hoping that it will become available in the U.K. I ascertained from a previous minister of justice that resomation is not illegal in the U.K. although unregulated as yet. It would be helpful if allowed in one place to enable experience to guide regulation and facilitate those who, like me. have advocated resomation for several years.

Please share your views below:

None of any interest.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There is a general feeling that the rotting of bodies is to be avoided, but the grinding of bones is an unpleasant gesture that only bad giants do. And also that economy of space and the continuing interest in caring for the grave is achieved by avoiding intact burial, which quickly fills the space.

However, to avoid disturbance of remains, a stipulation of burial at 40 cm. depth or more in a recognised churchyard or cemetery should be a condition of their release.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

No strong views.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

It would be good to add

(4) Minimising stress for the bereaved.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Some new methods (e.g. alkaline hydrolysis), also cremation, produce residues that could be interred in graves. We should not, for example, require the immediate product of cremation or alkaline hydrolysis to be pulverised if the intention is that these will be buried in a grave

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

This seems reasonable.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

██████████ 'water cremation', a.k.a. alkaline hydrolysis, might be more congruent than cremation with Christian traditions ██████████
██████████ However -
'Appropriate Christian symbolism would retain the integrity of the individual by avoiding pulverisation and scattering after water cremation, and burying the remains in a container in consecrated ground at sufficient depth to avoid disturbance. The bones are quite soft, and would eventually crumble, allowing a family plot to be used almost indefinitely.'

I hope that it will remain possible, if wished, to avoid the pulverisation of the remains from 'resomation' or cremation if they are to be buried, ideally in a churchyard or cemetery.

I wrote to a previous Minister of Justice, and his response was that resomation was 'legal but as yet unregulated'. I hope that one or two pioneer installations in the United Kingdom can be opened very soon, and will not have to await regulatory legislation being agreed and come into effect. It could be stipulated that all regulations applying to cremation would be observed.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

From: [redacted]
Sent on: Saturday, August 23, 2025 12:40:14 PM
To: benfm <benfm@lawcommission.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Deadline to submit a consultation response - New Funerary Methods

[redacted]

re Consultation on new funerary methods.
Reduction of cremated and resomated remains

I put in a submission earlier, but would like to underline my interest in this subject. [redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted] Amos 2,1 describes the 'burning of the bones of the King of Edom into lime' as a very serious sin. On the other hand the decaying bodies of Saul and Jonathan were rescued after a battle and burnt. 'They took their bones and buried them under a tamarisk tree' and rejoiced that 'in death they were not divided'. [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted] I would prefer resomation, [redacted]
[redacted] This is already possible in the Irish Republic, but it would be lovely if it became possible nearer home.

[redacted] 23, 08. 2025.

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7S9-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-11 17:59:54

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Licensing, as long as it is not an overly burdensome process, seems sensible. Perhaps it should be required for existing funerary methods too, for consistency.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes, the ability to make provision for approved trials of new funerary methods should be included.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, although the process by which a new funerary method becomes regulated should not be unduly prohibitive.

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

I'm of the opinion that a license should be required to carry out any funerary method (new or old). Since it would not be possible to have a license for an unregulated method, I think this all reduces to it being an offence to carry out a funeral without the necessary license.

Please share your views below:

See my response to the previous question

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7S2-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods

Submitted on 2025-06-12 11:44:38

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Considerations of principles 1) and 2) should be required. I am concerned that religious groups could apply culturally-specific understandings of principle 3) to block new funerary methods on the basis that their religions do not consider those methods conducive to human dignity. (The role of Catholic lobbying groups in opposing the legalization of new funerary methods in the United States is my point of reference here.)

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7ET-6

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-12 12:16:11

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

none
private citizen

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

n/a

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

n/a

Please share your views below:

n/a

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

n/a

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

no, surely it's implied with any burial already?

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

of course

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

n/a

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

n/a

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

n/a

Yes

Please share your views below:

n/a

Please share your views below:

whatever makes the new ways easy to do, cheap and accessible to all.
regulation, communication and compliance with the law

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

n/a

Please share your views below:

n/a

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

n/a

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7EE-Q

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-12 12:35:22

About you

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Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7EM-Y

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Submitted on 2025-06-12 13:06:24

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[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Agree due to environmental reasons and I like the idea of my family having my compost

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7ES-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-12 13:19:32

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What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

individual

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Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

I do not wish my contact details to be issued to third parties, or published in reports of this questionnaire please.

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

no, just those mentioned in the paper.

Please share your views below:

no, as above.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Different factors will apply to different novel methods of funerary methods. For example, alkaline hydrolysis would require regulation of effective, timely and environmentally benign control and disposal of products and remains. High quality composting mediums for human composting would need assured and potentially regulated to avoid potential environmental hazards too.

Could human composting might be considered an 'accelerated' pre-burial method?

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Certification of facilities to conduct new funerary methods/services should have regulation for service providers.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

All of the above agreed.

Please share your views below:

Labels, names and steps of methods may change over time. This should take account evolution of practices.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

I think (1) is suitable, not requiring (2) necessarily. It may be instead that Government should be given the power to create or amend existing offences...for any funerary service or procedures...etc. This would encompass both existing, new and novel future methods.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

It should be made explicitly clear whether remains, products and identifiable parts (i.e. bone fragments and teeth) have legal protections as remains, or as chemical/biological waste (i.e. compost or alkaline solutions) where government should have obligation to determine each new method as it arises.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Trials should be regulated similarly to living human trials, with rigor and replicability of outcomes. All care should be made to ensure reliable methods are safe as mentioned before.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Again, as before, robust informative campaigns should follow to inform the public, prior to implementation of criminalisation.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Uncertain on (2) where desecration already exists.

Please share your views below:

This covers previous comments I highlight.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Imprisonment may not help, if re-training or regulation of compliance back to regulated practices, alongside the fines, should be considered in the first instance. Obviously if desecration is evident this applies separately.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

I have only heard of North American jurisdictions examples.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

These new methods should be accessible as possible, within reasonable bounds of a person expressing their wishes.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

N/A

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7EF-R

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-12 14:56:20

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Personal response

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Telephone number:

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Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

No

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

No

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

No

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

No

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7ED-P

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods

Submitted on 2025-06-12 14:56:56

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[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Private individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

I do not require the information I give to be kept confidential

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I am particularly interested as an individual in human composting Terramation, I am hoping the government will legislate at some point soon, to legalise it in the UK.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Not aware

Please share your views below:

Not aware of any other potential new funerary methods other than those in the consultation.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I have no issue with the above statement

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

That would be more beneficial for the funeral industry as a whole

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

That would give reassurance for individuals wishing to explore new Funerary methods

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Licenseing would be beneficial in the long term just as other methods are licensed.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

That would give reassurance to potential customers and relatives of deceased persons that everything is legitimate and above board.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

The proposed new methods would have to be legislated and regulated for, to avoid fraudulent practices from occurring.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7EZ-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-12 15:49:26

About you

What is your name?

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Personal response

If other, please state::

Please select...

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

I was aware of cryomation and promession but am not aware of any developments in either process other than those set out in the Consultation Paper.

Please share your views below:

I am unaware of any other potential new funerary methods at this point in time.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Broadly agree, but legislation should be more cohesive and uniform than the existing legislation relating to burial.

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes, to all of the above.

There should be consideration of the siting and scale of the facilities, potential emissions and pollution (including noise and visual amenity impact on local area).

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I strongly believe that there should be provision for regular and rigorous inspection of any new facilities, with written reports, recommendations for any amendments and the option for users of the facility to also comment, as for example with Ofsted inspections of schools.

I strongly agree that there should be regulations concerning disposal of resulting liquid or compost product, should families not wish to collect. (Also governing where families may disperse the resulting liquid or compost after collection.)

I also strongly agree with Clauses 6.116 and 6.117 concerned unidentified bodies.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes, I believe approved trials should be permitted and strictly monitored. Otherwise how will new methods ever be developed, refined and approved?

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

There is some ambiguity here; how could it be proven that a defendant knew that the funerary method was not regulated or that there was even a requirement for new funerary methods to be regulated, if there is currently no regulatory or trade body governing funeral directors in the UK (which may be their only experience of the funerary industry)?

Yes

Please share your views below:

Ambiguity re knowledge, as above.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

It would depend on the circumstances. I don't see why the fine should be more than that for carrying out an unauthorised cremation.

Please share your views below:

I am fairly sure that imprisonment would be more of a deterrent than a £1,000 fine.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7EN-Z

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-12 17:52:46

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

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What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Interested principally in terramation.

Please share your views below:

No.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

This seems reasonable to me.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

In that order.

Please share your views below:

I rather think that terramation should be the default., to be opted out of.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

§1 sufficient?

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Agree

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

second option, I think.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

prison not appropriate in my view.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Nothing to share. I am interested solely because terramation is what I wish for myself.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

vide supra.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

not relevant to me.

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7E6-8

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-12 20:02:08

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes, all 3 of those are important.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

1 - new methods should be subject to the same consequences as existing ones, should fraud occur.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

No

Please share your views below:

This might hold back innovation. Regulation is important but the government are often behind the times.

Consultation Question 14.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7EK-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-12 20:16:40

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None - I am responding as an individual.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

Select

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

I cannot see how new funerary methods could be possible without license arrangements. However, these should be proportionate to the risk. For example, terramation doesn't involve the use of dangerous chemicals, require high temperatures or cause emissions or pollution to the surrounding environment so the extent to which a local community should be consulted over a proposed local facility ought to be minimal.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

I agree with having regard to the environment and public health and safety. However, I would oppose legislating for "preservation of human dignity". "Dignity" in relation to the treatment of a deceased person is highly subjective. I, for one, shudder at the thought of being buried after death. Including a requirement to regard the preservation of human dignity will open a door to challenge new funerary methods by individuals who, in reality, simply don't like the thought of the proposed methods but have no rational basis for challenge.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

I don't feel qualified to suggest appropriate penalties for breach of new regulations in this area.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7EW-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-12 20:44:24

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

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What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/a

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Personal response

If other, please state::

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

N/a

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

N/a

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Licensing should be in place to prevent unscrupulous people out to make money without the proper things in place including education

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Environment has to be a consideration, local authorities have no more space available for standard burials for a start

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

No

Please share your views below:

Should be a higher penalty

Please share your views below:

Yes absolutely, a crime like that is abhorrent

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7ZS-T

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-12 21:11:53

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

n/a

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7ZR-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-12 22:33:08

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

N/A

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

I'm not aware of any others not already mentioned.

Please share your views below:

I'm not aware of any others.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

N/a

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

N/a

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Licensing would be useful in ensuring that new funerary methods are carried out properly, with proper equipment, so yes, I agree with the idea of licensing.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Please share your views below:

Not sure.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

1. I don't think a level 3 fine would go far enough in such a situation.
2. I agree that new offences carrying heftier penalties such as imprisonment would need to be created.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

n/a

Please share your views below:

At the moment, I can't think of other matters to include.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes, approved trials make sense.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I'd say this is where licensing will be useful.

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

n/a

Yes

Please share your views below:

n/a

Please share your views below:

1. I'm not sure how this could play out. It doesn't quite make sense to me that a defendant could carry out an unregulated funerary method and not know it.

2. I can see where this could come into play but also abused in practice when someone winds up in court.

Consultation Question 15.

No

Please share your views below:

This doesn't sit well with me. A level 3 fine seems too little of a penalty.

Please share your views below:

Yes, I do think it should include imprisonment.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

I'm just a member of the public commenting on this and don't know the data or evidence in these regards.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Don't think so.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

I don't live in Wales, so couldn't say.

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7ZC-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-13 06:06:34

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

I would feel more comfortable knowing that the service had been properly licenced, yes.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes to all the above.<

Please share your views below:

Unless there is a specific reason like public health why existing methods, such as cremation, should be used, I think the more environmentally friendly methods should be compulsory.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Approved trials are presumably essential for the sage development of any new method, so I would support that.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Provided the sensitivities or cultural/religious of bereaved families are treated with respect and consideration.

Consultation Question 14.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

How does that fit alongside "ignorance of the law is no excuse"?

Yes

Please share your views below:

... but also seem last answer.

There should be an element of negligent disregard of finding out relevant regulations.

Please share your views below:

As above.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Probably not unless it is a repeat offender.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7ZN-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-13 10:20:20

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Licensing seems sensible given that we don't want just anyone providing either of the new services. The main reason for this is that it might not be done in the most acceptable or appropriate way. There must be standardisation of the processes used in order to ensure optimum results once the process has completed. That must include how the bones are processed. It would be ideal if well established funeral directors were able to adopt these new methods so that families could have confidence that it was being done correctly.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

(1) Yes, because environmentally friendly methods are better for the planet. Terramation chambers should be able to be re-used many times.

(2) Yes, because we must make sure no harmful liquids are created during these processes which would be bad for the environment in any way. Terramation, if done properly, would produce nutritious compost, which is good for the environment. I can't comment on somation.

(3) Yes, when doing terramation the chamber would have to be kept securely in a suitable place during the composting process. The question arises whether loved ones might visit during this time? I don't know the answer to that one.

Please share your views below:

For terramation, it would have to be made clear that it wouldn't be lawful to attempt a DIY version of the process. Also if loved ones don't wish to keep the resultant compost who would be responsible for disposing of it?

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes there need to be trials, but only if the methods already used in other countries haven't been suitably trialed.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Not knowing can't be an excuse. We have to abide by all kinds of rules and regulations in our daily lives, and anyone wanting to carry out a "DIY terramation/somation" should seek to find out if it's lawful.

Consultation Question 15.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Not imprisonment.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7ZE-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-13 11:21:11

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Continuous Improvement Forum for Bereavement Services in South East Wales

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

N/A

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No.

Please share your views below:

No.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Yes, we agree with this approach.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes, we agree with this proposal listed above.

Please share your views below:

The bereaved families - what if anything will be returned (the expectation of the process/end result).

Affordability of the process.

The location, near homes and other public spaces.

Clean, open and transparent policy in terms of pricing and where the process will take place.

Consultation with faith groups.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

If a conviction was to take place, we would like to see that person banned from using that method again.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

The group agrees with point 2, the government should be given the power to create new offences in secondary legislation.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

The group agrees with this approach.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

If a bereaved family approaches a professional to procure a new funerary method, the responsibility is held jointly to ensure the method is regulated.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

There should be other penalties including banning operators etc. and considered on a case by case basis. If a criminal offence has taken place then yes it should include imprisonment.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

The group feels that all cultural and faith needs are taken care of and included in these proposals.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

We don't think any of the proposals would have a direct effect any groups protected under the Equality Act 2010.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

A preferred option would be a UK approach rather than individual countries introducing regulation/legislation.

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7ZP-Q

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-13 12:47:08

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

No

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Yes, I agree licensing should be part of the regulation.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes, absolutely.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Yes, most definitely

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes, this would be a sensible and pragmatic approach.

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7ZQ-R

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods

Submitted on 2025-06-14 16:55:09

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

I do not wish need my responses to be confidential

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

No

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

It is important to have licencing

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes to all three

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Links back to licencing

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Level 3 fine does not seem very high

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Approved trials should be part of the process

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

People carrying out a new funerary method should have made it their business to ascertain whether it is regulated or not; they should be guilty whether or not they were aware that it was not regulated.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Unsure

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

I am responding in a personal capacity and as an interested party. I am unable to provide data, though I found the studies from other parts of the world very informative.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Unsure

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Unsure

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7ZF-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-15 06:45:16

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

No organisation

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Not applicable

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

No

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Approved

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

All good

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Ok

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

No evidence

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

No evidence

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GN1A-P

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-15 16:18:57

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/a

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Not required to be confidential

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

No

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

I have no opinion of this other than being in favour of legalising new funerary methods to provide more natural and sustainable methods.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

I think point 1 is extremely important as we deal with every increasing impacts of climate change. I personally would like my own eventual funeral plans to have the least environmental impact, avoiding high energy usage, high levels of carbon emissions into the environment and unnecessary use of land for burial.

Please share your views below:

I have no opinion of this other than being in favour of legalising new funerary methods to provide more natural and sustainable methods.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Even though I am in favour of new funerary methods, I agree that the law should be enforced to ensure that practitioners operate within the [modified] law.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes I agree with approved trials.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

I have no opinion of this other than being in favour of legalising new funerary methods to provide more natural and sustainable methods.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

I have no opinion of this other than being in favour of legalising new funerary methods to provide more natural and sustainable methods.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

I have no opinion of this other than being in favour of legalising new funerary methods to provide more natural and sustainable methods.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

I have no opinion of this other than being in favour of legalising new funerary methods to provide more natural and sustainable methods.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

I have no opinion of this other than being in favour of legalising new funerary methods to provide more natural and sustainable methods.

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRCJ-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-16 15:37:34

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Non

I am a private interested individual with no specific expertise in funerary or the law.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

-- Please Select --

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

No comment

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No comment

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

I'm not sure. Surely defining specific funerary methods is a cumbersome and limiting approach. Why don't we focus on what we want to get out of a funeral rather than what must go into one? An output based approach would make it much easier to encompass new innovative approaches as they are developed without having to enact legislation for each new approach.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

If all new funerary methods must be licensed prior to use how do we develop new ones without relying on other countries doing it first?
Maybe we should license the provider rather than the process?

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Protection of the environment, public health and public safety makes sense but the preservation of human dignity is almost impossible to define. Its definition varies throughout society and over time.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

I`m not competent to answer this question but who would police this and would it inhibit the development of new approaches to funerary?

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

I am not competent to comment but have reservations similar to given to the previous question

Consultation Question 10.

No

Please share your views below:

Regulating specific methods stifles innovation and development. I believe regulating the output is more important the the input.

Consultation Question 11.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

I believe that the close regulation of specific funerary methods is, in the long run, counter productive. It stifles innovation and the development of new approaches of disposing to human remains. It is better to regulate and police what is delivered by a funerary approach as that surely is the primary purpose of the regulation?

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Definitely yes

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

No

Please share your views below:

How do we develop and innovate if we do this?

Consultation Question 14.

No

Please share your views below:

See above

Don't know

Please share your views below:

This is to black and white. We need flexibility for new developments

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 15.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

In general terms, regulation that defines process rather than product limits innovation, productivity and general improvement.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

No comment

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRCY-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-16 18:45:49

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

N/A

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

My understanding is that the new proposed funerary arrangements are in addition to the cremation and burial disposal of human bodies that is already in operation in the UK. I agree on definitions of the new proposals.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

I am not aware of other proposals

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

It will be more streamlined and less complicated to make the registration process similar.

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I agree the new proposals need to stand alone and not as sub headings to cremation or burial.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I agree with the proposal.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

I believe licencing should be part of the new funerary methods.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Primary legislation should require the government to have regard for the points above.

Please share your views below:

Unsure at this time.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I agree that primary legislation should specify that it's a criminal offense to the above two points.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

My answer to the above two points is yes, it should be a criminal offense.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Regulation is the only way to protect the dead, their loved ones, public health and the environment.

Consultation Question 11.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Unsure at this point.

Please share your views below:

I feel that timescales for both new methods need to be regulated as to the process and loved ones receiving the remains if they want them returned.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes, approval for new trials should be included to ensure we remain proactive with new ideas.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

No

Please share your views below:

This should be explored on a one to one basis and now closed off at the first hurdle, thus avoiding unnecessary delay.

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I agree to the above.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Being regulated should make these proposals very clear.

Please share your views below:

I am unsure at this time.

Consultation Question 15.

No

Please share your views below:

I feel the penalties need to be tougher and more robust to deter illegal practice.

Please share your views below:

Yes, however, i feel a fine should be implemented for a first offense first.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

I feel unqualified to answer this question.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

I have no reason to believe the proposals could result in advantages or disadvantages to any groups.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

N/A

Response ID ANON-P3FF-G7ZB-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-18 20:06:35

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Not applicable.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Not applicable.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

If the method isn't primarily aimed at disposing of the body, then it would be a form of storage.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

I am not aware of other methods or developments.

Please share your views below:

No.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

As a member of the public I found the legislation and implications confusing. However I think that new funerary methods should be feasible given increases in population, availability of land and concerns about the environmental impact of current cremation. It is right that there should be away of ensuring the identity of the deceased person, that the correct body is handed over to a person capable of arranging disposal that is within the law (ie not an unlawful disposal), with an obligation to carry out the disposal and to have a register (who, responsible person, where, when, how, who the final remains are given to (ash/compost etc.) that is held by a statutory organisation. I would not want disposal records being deleted or mislaid once a company or disposal facility ceases to exist. I would not want the procedures or bureaucracy to be burdensome or difficult for small, independent providers, businesses, community interest companies or not for profit organisations. I liked the considerations listed in relation to the Netherlands; safety, dignity and sustainability.

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I think cremation is understood by most of the public as "burning by fire" and dissolving a body in chemicals does not fit that understanding. I agree that broadening the definition of cremation or burial will make it harder for people to specify the preferred process of disposal when that might matter on religious or ethical grounds. There is no benefit to broadening a definition of burial or cremation if the regulations on procedures relating to those methods don't fit well. Therefore it is more appropriate to define and regulate new funerary methods separately.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

As a member of the public I would want to be sure that a new funerary method was being carried out to a reasonable standard. I also think there needs to be scope to introduce new funerary methods in future, given current concerns about land availability for burial and the environmental impact of current cremation.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

I think licencing should be in place for new funerary methods because these involve processes that could have a public health impact if handled incorrectly (either from the human remains or from the chemicals/pressures involved). I would ask that the licence does not use the term "funerary services" because this could be confused with the delivery of a "funeral service" and it is important that people have the right to choose a ceremony or none that fits their bereavement/faith/circumstances and do not have to use a registered funeral service provider. The licencing process and cost should not be onerous to a new small scale provider. It is important that small and/or new businesses are given the space to flourish.

I would expect the selling of funeral plans to be governed by financial management legislation and regulations because people could be buying a plan many years in advance of it being used and there is scope for fraud or financial mismanagement. I would not like to see scope for funeral companies to reform frequently as some double glazing and solar panel companies do (thereby invalidating insurance certificates issued to former customers and evading responsibility for claims).

If funeral directors were licensed, would that allow a family to organise a funeral without a licensed funeral director? I don't think people should have to use a licensed funeral director for the funeral ceremony.

I am not aware of malpractice around embalming so am not clear if this would need licensing. Presumably there are regulations and legislation about handling chemicals and law related to getting the service being paid for.

I can't comment on whether licences should be for individual workers in new funerary methods or premises. I would want to avoid premises being run in practice by inadequately trained workers or with inappropriate equipment under the nominal supervision of a licensee. Licences should certainly be revoked/terminated if the need arose (otherwise there is no point). I would not want to see the same directors of a firm dissolving a business and reforming in a slightly different configuration to avoid legal or licensing obligations.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes to all three. I agree that standards for new funerary methods should not be higher than burial or cremation as this may discourage development of new methods and businesses but I am concerned that there may be no incentive to drive standards up either.

Dignity may need to be considered carefully to ensure inclusivity and cultural changes over time to what is meant by "dignified".

Please share your views below:

There has been mention of the potential misuse of new funerary methods to hide criminal activity. There should be consideration of preventing companies setting up and engaging in substandard practices that harm the environment, risk public health and safety (the examples that come to mind are around the problems the environmental waste industry is facing). New businesses can also be seen by unprincipled people as an opportunity for financial exploitation of customers, particularly if there are loopholes or scope for poor practice while evading sanctions. These have been touched upon in the consultation paper but in a world driven ever harder by the profit motive there will be increasing ingenuity in evading good practice and high standards.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I would hope the same applies to burial and cremation in addition to new funerary methods.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

I don't understand enough about the difference between primary and secondary legislation and the implications to comment.

It would seem reasonable for offences and sanctions to be in line with other funerary methods.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

It seems right that both the death and the disposal details should be registered, including how, when, where and who was responsible for carrying out the method.

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I would agree that there should be regulations on whether a body can be disposed of in particular ways given

- lack of identification of the body
- medical implants that undermine the safety of the process or of the remains (unless removed)
- health risks of pathogens that persist beyond the process.

Disposal of waste products from the processes should not contaminate air, soil, food, water supplies.

Funerary methods and facilities should not cause noise or smell nuisance to the locality.

Please share your views below:

I would like to have human composting available as a funerary method in future provided the products of the process are not an unmanageable health risk. I note that we still have burial grounds from centuries past that are deemed a public health risk, so a managed risk reduction approach seems reasonable to me.

I wouldn't want to see human remains or waste from funerary methods being used within commercial or mass produced fertiliser as this feels deeply disrespectful to the dead and to the living. Provided the remains are sanitary, I would not want legislation to prevent individual members of the public scattering ashes or the equivalent on their garden. That would be a matter for personal choice.

I think regulation needs to consider whether it is possible to

- monitor the regulations
- identify good practice or breach of regulations
- prove regulations are being kept to or not
- sanction breach of regulations.

There are always some people willing to breach regulations in any business and in developing regulations it is important to think about how to evade the regulations because somebody will try one day.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes. Unless new methods can be trialed we won't get the evidence needed to establish if they work, are safe for people and the environment to our standards and what modifications may be needed to raise standards.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Trials of new funerary methods should be permitted in certain circumstances and trial regulations should not be so restrictive they prevent trials taking place. (hopefully that is already covered).

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Unless they are taking part in a lawful trial of a new funerary method.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Unless it is a lawful trial of a new funerary method.

Please share your views below:

I think this needs to be a "no fault" offence. I wonder whether it might be possible to disprove recklessness, or what might happen if evidence cannot be found to prove or disprove recklessness.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Mostly I would agree to deter shoddy practitioners setting up.

Please share your views below:

Yes, unless it was a lawful trial method.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

No data or evidence to offer.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

No suggestions to offer.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

No data or evidence to offer.

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRCA-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-20 17:36:27

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

n/a

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

n/a

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

none known

Please share your views below:

sky burials, though this is not new.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

within reason yes, it makes sense to keep the method regulation separate.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

yes, the licensing should be part of the regulation.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

yes to all three.

Please share your views below:

whilst it sort of is covered by parts 2 and 3, I think there needs to be a fourth element regarding acceptable uses for remains or by products of such remains or processes. For example many people would be squeamish about using a swimming pool heated with excess heat from a crematorium, or eating food grown in human derived compost.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

maximum penalty should be significantly higher to discourage malfeasance.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

it should.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

ignorance of the law is generally not an excuse.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

n/a

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRC6-1

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-23 13:25:45

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Resomation

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Yes I agree that licensing should form part of the regulations

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Agree to all of the above

Please share your views below:

Nothing

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

I agree, as long as the process does not make the new method too tied up in red tape to ever become a feasible option

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes, ethical trials should be undertaken

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

agree with 1

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Probably not- unless it was following an unlawful death

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRC7-2

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-24 10:16:50

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Member of the public.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Not confidential.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

That seems a balanced, concise, and accurate definition.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Not aware of any progress.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

It makes sense that if the definition is, then the regulatory regime should also be different.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

For a radically new procedure, then licensing is desirable, in order to prevent "rogue operators" entering the market, failing, and leaving customers without service or recompense.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes, absolutely. This cannot be left solely to the providers, or "self regulation", which never works (viz: the private water companies in England & Wales).

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GR4X-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-25 16:24:46

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Solace Holding Co Ltd (Bermuda) - www.Aquaternal.com

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Alkaline hydrolysis has a proven history of being a safe and efficient method of animal and human disposition. Our company's new patented process focuses on low temperature, non-pressurised rotational system and has reduced the process time down from 14 hours to the (flame cremation) industry's accepted time of 3-4 hrs. Non-pressurised AH systems can be installed for 1/4 the cost of high pressure, high temperature and are considered safer, less complicated and cheaper to operate and maintain.

For wider industry acceptance and uptake we would hope this review will include low temperature, non-pressurised AH.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Aquaternal's new patented rotational AH developed over the last 7 years overcomes several hurdles faced with current systems in the US and UK. Briefly:

- 1) Our non-pressurised system effectively reduces the process times down from 14-18 hrs (for low temperature, non-pressurised systems) to only 3-4 hrs. Slow rotation and rocking of the body together with our proprietary internal baffles provides sufficient agitation to expose fresh tissue to the alkaline fluids. Competing systems involve a stationary body and circulating the fluid.
- 2) Competing system typically have problems accessing the brain tissue which is protected by dense skull structure. Methods include a vise to pre-crack the skull ahead of introducing the alkaline tissue, injecting the alkaline through the eye socket. We consider these methods to be negatively associated with treating the body with respect and if allowed to be publicly disclosed may result in negative opinions about AH in general. Our patented gentle rocking motion provides sufficient agitation to allow the alkali solution to access the brain tissue. We believe the respectful treatment of the body is of

paramount importance. Video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bi6BDMGJM2g>

3) The issue of "dumping the liquid remains down the drain" may also be perceived as disrespectful, although by comparison to disposing of bodily fluids during embalming, post AH process fluids contain no intact DNA, pathogens etc. Our company has patent pending procedures to treat AH effluent separating out the saponified fats and reducing the BOD/COD and SS to acceptable municipal wastewater treatment plant guidelines. Analysis of our treated effluent shows that it is suitable as a soil amendment after adjustment of pH and macro nutrient NPK ratios. We have several articles posted in support of Aquaternal's zero-waste (animal mortality management) AH process. Human disposition naturally involves more layers of consideration. <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/turning-loss-life-how-water-cremation-can-help-fight-mason-p-eng--9im1e/?trackingId=As95kvTvQ%2Be9%2BbJl3mkHw%3D%3D>

Other comments:

It is not necessary to have high temperature, high pressure to achieve shorted processing times. Aquaternal has solved this issue with rotational AH.

Non-pressurised AH is safer, less complicated and lower operational/life cycle costs.

"Aquamation" is only trademarked (recently) in the USA. All other jurisdictions recognise the term as being descriptive of water cremation, alkaline hydrolysis. Resomation is trademarked.

Our system does not require the body to be shrouded.

Please share your views below:

Our focus is on non-pressurised AH.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

No

Please share your views below:

In many jurisdictions in the USA the existing law with wording that includes "cremation" adopt a broader understanding to include "the reduction of human remains to bone fragments by mechanical, thermal or chemical means, including alkaline hydrolysis" - Colorado

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Composting differs so much from AH that it may be prudent to have regulations/policies specific to each field.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Yes. No different than for flame cremation

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes, absolutely. Although I'm fairly sure many people would likely reconsider their views on embalming if they were aware of the invasive nature of the procedure.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

No

Please share your views below:

I would suggest further thought on the following:

6.87 - Location. One of the advantages of AH is that there are no air emissions, noise or odors. Aquaternal systems can be placed in basements alongside morgues for instance. During peak crises event (pandemics) it reduces the need to double handle bodies, reduce storage constraints and the logistics of transportation. It is possible for AH to be positioned in high density urban cities, safely.

6.93 - You may be attempting to limit the advantages of new technology that makes AH less expensive. Time, temperature and alkali concentration are all interrelated. Agitation is a new factor Aquaternal has introduced effectively to achieve the same result as older less efficient technology. Further improvements should not be constrained but new legislation that define parameters. Focus more on the outcome - performance.

6.105 - there is no need to incur the additional labor cost to remove medical implants with AH. There is no risk of explosion of chemical deterioration of titanium or stainless steel.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

If the science behind AH has proven effective in other jurisdictions I do not see the need to make provisions for trials.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

I'll send an email with attachments

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GR4S-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-25 23:33:14

About you

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No. The process of human composting described in the consultation paper matches my understanding, and is what prompted me to respond to this consultation.

Please share your views below:

No.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, this seems like a good starting point.

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, providing the ultimate aim is to make environmentally-friendly methods such as alkaline hydrolysis and human composting at least as widely available and affordable as cremation.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, providing the ultimate aim is to make environmentally-friendly methods such as alkaline hydrolysis and human composting at least as widely available and affordable as cremation.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

I do not agree that a licensing system should be introduced solely for new funerary methods. It creates an unnecessary distinction.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

I think those principles should underpin legislation regarding ALL funerary methods, not just new ones.

Please share your views below:

Affordability and accessibility to the general population.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

I am not familiar enough with law to comment on primary vs secondary legislation. However, assuming that the Government aims to mirror existing criminal offences for breach of provisions relating to cremation, it seems reasonable to lay out similar legislation for new funerary methods.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, the existing system of registration should also apply to new funerary methods.

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes, I would be in favour of this.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

This may help reassure more conservative members of the public, but seems potentially unnecessary if this legislation doesn't already exist.

Consultation Question 14.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

"Terramation offers several significant environmental benefits compared to conventional burial and cremation methods:

- Reduced Carbon Emissions: Cremation requires a significant amount of energy and produces greenhouse gases, contributing to climate change. Terramation, on the other hand, is a low-energy process that produces little to no greenhouse gases.
- Resource Conservation: Traditional burials often involve the use of precious resources, such as hardwoods for caskets and concrete for burial vaults. Terramation eliminates the need for these materials, conserving natural resources and reducing waste.
- Land Use: As the population grows and urban areas expand, available land for burial is becoming increasingly scarce. Terramation requires much less space, as the resulting soil can be used to nourish plants, trees, or even public green spaces.

Additionally, the increased adoption of terramation can help to foster a cultural shift in the way we view death and the environment. As more people choose this sustainable option, it may encourage greater awareness of environmental issues and promote more eco-friendly practices in other areas of life."

<https://terramation.uk/2023/03/21/what-is-terramation/>

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GR41-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-06-26 11:01:04

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

No

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Licensing should be a part of all funary methods.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes all should taken into account.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Yes definately

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Yes it should. The whole funeral industry should be regulated.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GR4P-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-07-03 10:46:19

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

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Enter the name of your organisation:

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Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

I think dead bodies need to be disposed of in the best way possible to protect our environment. Cremation uses energy, green burials in a basket coffin are costly and take up space and time to rot. So long as this new way has a dignified service and does not involve anything that would harm the environment in any way I think it should be considered. The activity of composting can go on after the curtains have closed just as cremation goes on after the curtains have closed.

[REDACTED]

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GR44-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods

Submitted on 2025-07-06 16:26:45

About you

What is your name?

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Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

I agree

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

I prefer alternative 1

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Alternative 1 is preferred

Consultation Question 15.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

It shouldn't

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

None to my knowledge

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

None to my knowledge

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

N/a

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GR43-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-07-08 09:42:52

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

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What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

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Personal response

If other, please state::

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Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

NA

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

no

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Yes, this should be licensed

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes, these three should all be include in the legislation

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GR4Y-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods

Submitted on 2025-07-11 11:42:33

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

I do not mind my information being shared in public.

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I agree

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Not aware

Please share your views below:

Not aware

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I agree

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Unsure

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

unsure

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

I agree.

In respect of Point 3 - I do not think that unidentified bodies should be disposed of by the new proposed funerary methods and neither by cremation.

To preserve the human dignity of unidentified bodies, all unidentified bodies should be buried for potential exhumation orders to be implemented should there be intelligence suggesting the body can be positively identified.

The new funerary methods, as well as cremation, have a finality to them that does not afford this opportunity.

Currently, in the UK, Unidentified bodies are cremated by default. The Law Commission is proposing this should stop due to the above issues. Therefore the new funerary methods must not be used either in such cases and this should be explicitly made clear.

Please share your views below:

Unsure

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Unsure

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 11.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Unsure

Please share your views below:

Unsure

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Unsure

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Agree

Yes

Please share your views below:

Agree

Please share your views below:

Unsure

Consultation Question 15.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Unsure

Please share your views below:

Unsure

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Unsure

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Unidentified bodies and/or body parts should be buried and not cremated or disposed of via the new funerary methods for the reasons I have detailed in my previous responses.

Unidentified bodies in the UK are currently disposed of by cremation by default. This is for cost purposes and must stop.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRCH-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-07-11 13:10:11

About you

What is your name?

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What is the name of your organisation?

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

No

Please share your views below:

My problem here is the word process. In fact you state that the purpose of a new funerary method is to dispose of the body of a deceased person. Burial and sea burial attain that, as does cremation in that the cremated remains can always be left at the crematorium. However, neither of the new processes you consider do that. They are a reduction process, leaving the bereaved with a large amount of organic material.

You also state that 'before a new funerary method is regulated ... this will require analysis of the method. However, it is evident that this analysis will be complex. For instance, in 2.49 the alkaline hydrolysis takes between 2 - 10 hours and 3 - 16 hours. These figures are variable and extremely vague. Such a variation suggests that the process has inherent problems. Also, in 2.52 you state that the powder produced following alkaline hydrolysis is SIMILAR to cremated remains though in greater volume. The word similar is entirely misleading. It may look similar but this powder is organic, attractive to vermin and may contain prions and other medication residues, in contrast to cremated remains.

I believe that Q1 should have a further point (5). 'That the process clearly exhibits potential benefits over historic burial, cremation and sea burial'.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

I mention above problems with 2.49 and 2.52.

In 2.54 you state, 'It disposes of the body, with no alternative purpose'. Again, the language misleads in that the body is reduced but not disposed.

In both 2.68 and 2.73 you state that the body is turned into soil. That is entirely unscientific because soil is a mineral based medium that might contain plant remains. The body is turned into compost and cannot be soil.

In 2.84 what you describe is excarnation. This was practised in the UK from 8,000 BC to the invasion by the Romans. It entailed exposing the body to birds. Unlike Sky Burial, there is no evidence that the bodies were smashed with hammers, as is the case with Tibetan Sky Burial.

In 2.85 you state that exposure (excarnation) would not be acceptable in the UK. That quote from Conway is entirely misleading, that the process is not 'socially acceptable'. This is bias. For instance, there is an ever increasing desire by people to return to nature as global warming continues to dominate our lives. Bird lovers might welcome such an exposure site, easily screened behind woodland, with the body retained under a net. The re-introduced sea eagles on the IOW would also welcome such a carrion facility, a British funerary option that these birds utilised for 8,000 years. The process of cremation is seen by many as violent but people are not given access to a cremator, they are not exposed to the process. The pollution from cremation is also far greater than that from excarnation. In truth, cremation should not be socially acceptable.

Please share your views below:

None I am aware of. However, I believe that excarnation has the potential to become a new funerary method. It does not have to be socially acceptable, but purely acceptable to those keen to put their body back into nature.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Now, with the potential for grave re-use from the consultation, natural burial might be available in or close to urban centres all over the UK. The process now holds more potential than when I introduced it in 1990. However, all these advantages are ignored.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

However, I have reservations. Up to the 1960's, a cremation inevitably meant that the cremated remains were placed in the Garden of Remembrance. Any later researchers for such a cremation would then readily find the final disposal of the cremated remains.

This process became complicated as more and more funeral directors removed ashes to their premises. This gave them a measure of control over the payment of the funeral bill. However, this meant that the Registration record was aware of the crematorium, but that the crematorium had no record of where they were placed. A record might be kept by the funeral director but not one that would exist for decades.

With both composting and alkaline hydrolysis, the remains will be too large for removal to a funeral directors premises. Indeed, it is much more likely with these processes that the remains will be split, a small portion being removed by the family and the remainder going elsewhere. Whatever, future researchers will have no obvious route by which they can identify this final placement, or that they were split.

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I do agree but have associated concerns. If, by defining and regulating separately, you create such a bulk of new law that that it runs the risk of being dropped by Government, that would be a great loss. The need for grave re-use, for instance, far outweighs the need for new funerary methods.

I also remain puzzled as to the impact of DEFRA, and of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA). The EPA, for instance, has had a massive impact on cremation. It demands specific temperatures and time periods, and controls emissions. It seems odd that for innovators who meet the law, they then find a plethora of further requirements by other Government agencies.

Having read through the consultation, the language still troubles me. For instance, in Florida (5.11) and for alkaline hydrolysis it suggests that they are 'reduced to ashes and bone fragments. In Colorado (5.11) 'final disposition' covers natural reduction (composting). The remains in 5.11 are not ashes and natural reduction is not final disposition. Both new funerary proposals are reduction processes but not final disposition.

In the past, UK cremation was considered a final disposition. The cremated remains were considered waste and given no protection. Slowly, but more so after the 1960's, the cremated remains attracted a spiritual identity and, I would hazard, for most people are the main reason why they now choose cremation. Having a life of their own, the possession of the cremated remains became a far greater issue for crematoria managers and funeral directors. The Home Office then decided that cremated remains were human remains and a licence or faculty was required to move them. Sometimes, the cremated remains were moved a few feet, from one grave to another, or one memorial scheme to another. [REDACTED] That said, there was no further scrutiny.

However, if the 'remains' are so important, it suggests referring to any form of reduction as the final disposal is misleading. The remains exist and must be considered carefully. How can cremated remains require a licence or faculty when the fluid from alkaline hydrolysis can be disposed of down the public sewer. This fluid contains all the protein and fats from the body, a high proportion of the organic content. The composted body also becomes mere compost. I believe that all remains, including cremated remains, should not be called 'human remains' and thereby relieved of any legal status. That is the only way to equitably treat all funerary methods, including these new ones. The disposal company or authority, working in partnership with the bereaved, can be relied upon to handle the remains with appropriate dignity, defined by their joint agreement. The law cannot control or scrutinise this aspect of the disposal.

We also, I suspect, can be fooled into thinking that neither alkaline hydrolysis nor composting will become mainstream, that they will remain a tiny part of the overall market. However, if they increase then, say, disposing of 500,000 portions of alkaline hydrolysis into the public sewer presents a far different scenario to a few hundred portions. With this in mind, the concern with moving cremated remains did not extend any further scrutiny. The fact that the cremated remains were and remain toxic was ignored. Consequently, all crematoria Gardens of Remembrance are now polluted land.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I have reservations. I cannot see how those regulations can be formulated when the new funerary methods exist only as vague and unproven concepts. That suggests they will be subject to the imposition of further controls under the EPA and DEFRA.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

I would welcome licensing if it integrates with the EPA/DEFRA. I assume this would then carry more weight when the company or authority involved have to negotiate local planning requirements.

At no stage is consideration given to industry standards. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A further body of work was put into the individual burial of stillbirths and the handling of fetal remains. Most transparent local authorities adopted the Charter and put themselves through the Assessment Process. Much of this work was done because the law either did not exist, had been repealed or was simply out of date. The Charter had an impact and at its simplest, ensured that authorities were transparent because the bereaved were told what all processes involved. The provider was required to explain the process. The private sector was not so transparent and a review I completed of private crematoria websites indicated that they routinely fell short on transparency. Specifically, they simply did not explain any impact on the environment and were consistently guilty of greenwashing.

The ICCM Charter for the Bereaved and Guiding principles will need to be revised if and when the law changes. I doubt that you can suggest that all new funerary processes should be made to adopt such industry standards, but without such adoption, standards are far less transparent. I have no views on whether the ICCM would, or could, act as a regulating body regarding the issuing of licences. They appear the only body with sufficient expertise to manage this, but may also be managing competing services and so not independent. I have no confidence that Government would create any scrutiny if licences were to be adopted.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes, but we need to recognise the past as regards (1) protection of the environment. No interest was taken in cremation and little research until the EU made the UK responsible for mercury emissions. The EPA then enforced these improvements. However, the total emissions from cremation were never fully identified. Neither did we accept the fact that the US stated that incineration in all forms is harmful to the environment. In reality, we have never fully recognised the harm caused by cremation.

As a further example, cremated remains, though known by operators to be high in salts and with a high PH, were never treated as toxic.

[REDACTED] remain sceptical, convinced that government will sit back and rely on unsubstantiated claims from companies whose first interest must be financial.

On the environment, I am concerned that alkaline hydrolysis has repeatedly changed its modus operandi regarding the resultant waste fluid. At one stage, they suggested that it be disposed over natural burial sites, which I found upsetting. The failure of the alkaline hydrolysis process in Sydney and the

extended amount of time the process requires gives me serious doubts that it is an improvement over cremation. Furthermore, when I requested where they obtained their cremation gas consumption figures from, they never replied. These figures, against which they proposed great savings, were inflated. This lack of transparency in the process gives me cause for alarm.

I am also shocked at the disclosure in 6.67 that potentially harmful chemicals are associated with alkaline hydrolysis. Such a process should not be permitted.

On (2) I also remain sceptical. The fact is that emissions, particularly microparticulates, are a major issue in places like London. The crematoria in the metropolis are clearly implicated in this but are ignored. In part, this is because the number of cremations is now so great that there is no alternative, other than grave re-use. [REDACTED] Every one of these major cemeteries was and remains unsafe in that no money has been forthcoming to repair dangerous memorials. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The use of Orders in Council also had little impact, mostly because there was no scrutiny. [REDACTED]

On (3), the preservation of human dignity, too little is done. I am aware that Public Health Funerals are still managed differently in local authorities, that there is no agreed standard. Some are good but many are really poor. They simply leave the arrangement of the funeral in obeyance for long periods hoping somebody will step forward to pay for it. They can also lack transparency as to what is to happen and when.

I take care when people who never worked with the bereaved put forward ideas about dignity. Many people find cremation a violent, undignified formulaic process. I also recognise that some people consider that natural burial is a form of neglect, more akin to pauper graves. However, new standards now apply to funerals, which did not apply in the past. In part that is the rising cost of funerals. The increase in Direct Cremation reflects this and few in the business thought that the bereaved would, in effect, abandon a conventional funeral service.

A new respect for nature now exists. Many people feel we are part of and not detached from nature. This is why support for natural burial was so strong. The Victorian concept of dignity has to be revised. A number of people have already called alkaline hydrolysis 'pot boiling' and dislike the idea. In contrast, I am aware that there are people out there who, if their body was exposed to birds, would identify that as dignified. The environment rules and I now consider cremation as an environmental disaster. Composting is a process that many will prefer, if the compost can be safely deposited somewhere.

Please share your views below:

My first principle is that unless the new funerary process can prove that it is an improvement on existing processes, then it should not be approved.

My second principal is transparency. There is too much secrecy about the new funerary processes, principally about the residue from the process. If the resultant fluid needs to be treated by chemicals, what chemicals? If prions exist in the compost, what do we do about them? The funeral industry is not transparent and greenwashing is everywhere.

[REDACTED] By operating cremators in a specific way, gas consumption could readily be reduced by 60 - 80%, which also reduced emissions. However, apart from a few local authority crematoria, this process has been ignored. No doubt, funeral directors and private crematoria would tell you that to introduce such a saving lacks 'dignity'. That word is so often abused by the trade.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

This follows a similar pattern as for cremation.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Based on the past, I feel that Government would be tardy as regards secondary legislation. The disposal of the dead always takes second place to education and social services. Consequently, I favour (1) primary legislation.

Consultation Question 10.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

By this stage in the consultation I am having misgivings about what is being proposed. My understanding of the new funerary processes is limited. However, I assume that the process already introduced in other countries does not have more than a basic registration requirement, more a list of the disposals done. Consequently, you wish to maintain the bureaucracy that, in part, sent most private cemetery companies into administration. There are considerable costs involved, by which I assume to be a computerised registration process. I doubt that a paper register would suffice. From where I stand, this would seriously threaten the introduction of any innovative process because it will drive up costs.

Over a period of say, 100 years, a plethora of composting and alkaline hydrolysis operators will have these registration systems in operation. Consequently, a number of these firms will go into liquidation and the computerised systems, typically incompatible with each other, will need a new home. Where would that be? I doubt the county archives will be able to handle that. In the past, because the dead involved were residents of a specific

council, the councils were unfairly asked to take responsibility. Private companies should not be given that fallback in the future.

The logical answer to this is that the Registrar of Deaths should maintain the only record on what happened to the body. Such a centralised process would be known to all. If necessary, the new funerary processes would simply send a monthly record of all 'disposals'. That removes the need for a sophisticated registration process at each and every location.

At first, these new funerary methods were described as disposal processes. That made sense in that the private sector is invited to use innovative ways to reduce the body. That, in effect, appeared to remove much of the responsibility of councils right down to the parish level in having to provide burial locations. However, by replicating what happened in the past you introduce all the old bureaucracy and this will stifle innovation.

Taking a lead from Europe, they introduced grave re-use by restricting grave rights to very limited periods. This kept burial sites limited in size and municipalities could readily maintain these. The human remains were removed from graves after the period and the remains placed in an ossuary. Consequently, if the remains were not in a grave then they were in the ossuary. Within that ossuary, they could not be traced and hence not recovered. Yet here we are, on one hand introducing new, innovative and potentially much cheaper means of disposal, whilst enforcing a bureaucratic tracking process, at multiple locations throughout the country. None of this makes sense. I see no simple way to trace back and record the final deposition of the residue from new processes. As long as that is clear to applicants, in other words, transparent, then I see no problem.

Consultation Question 11.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

I understand all the needs outlined. However, I have concerns that all this means that new processes will be ever more difficult to introduce. That is an issue because cremation is a polluting process with a very high carbon footprint. It needs to be phased out.

A point on inspections: [REDACTED] There were said to be such inspections at private burial grounds, where the owners were said to be selling grave rights over previously used common grave areas. It appears that human remains were thrown out of graves and seen by members of the public in the grave spoil. However, all this was kept secret and no statements by Government were ever made.

I also feel that suggestions that local authorities might be tasked with inspections is unfair, unless they are paid to do this. However, unless they were a large urban council, few would be expert enough to understand either of the two currently proposed new funerary methods.

Please share your views below:

My concern, as always, is transparency. [REDACTED] That was to prove the veracity of the process. In contrast, I note that one of the US composting processes already prohibits all viewing of the process. However, I have inspected the composting process in the UK, using pig remains, and found it far quieter and more respectful than cremation. The need for transparency is paramount to give the bereaved confidence in the process.

My concern with transparency reminds me that both new funerary methods reduce the body but do not dispose of it. I am minded to say that all new funerary methods should be required to identify at least one disposal source for the residue of that process. That would ensure a measure of transparency because a focus would be placed specifically on this fact. That would ensure that the bereaved could see an end to the process, that it would be a true disposal process. I say this because both methods leave a greater amount of residue than, say, cremation. This disposal location might be a farm, and one can imagine, transparently, an identified cost for this disposal, part of which would be a payment to the landowner. However, whatever the location, it is easy to imagine that the 'residue' in both cases might have to be stored for some time. In all land use, trees or crops might exist such that disposal might have to wait until after harvest. Typically, disposal of, say, farm manure, is in spring each year. This storage has implications over dignity, maintaining identity and final placement. However, if these issues are transparent, and known to the bereaved, I see them as acceptable. Unlike cemeteries or crematoria, these new funerary methods do not own the (private) land they will use and this needs consideration. It is quite likely that such locations may not wish to be named and would certainly not want the bereaved visiting their land to identify the deceased's remains.

I note in 6.114 the review of fetuses. [REDACTED] This was because they were being taken to clinical waste incinerators, which, as you are aware, still happens. [REDACTED] Both actions ensured that the fetus was registered as a cremation or burial, as a case number, but could then be located forever afterwards by a parent(s). All this action was taken in spite of Government inaction then, as now, on these issues. They say that dignity is important and yet allow such human remains to be treated as waste.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Logically, this makes total sense. However, a trial would have to identify where the process stands when compared to other processes. Neither burial, natural burial nor cremation have been assessed. Worse, when the need to assess mercury emissions was made, it was suggested that all emissions should be researched. This was rejected as too expensive. Consequently, it was refused. The consensus was that the emission controls for mercury would, in general, reduce cremation emissions and so improve the process. That said, the collected sorbent remains hazardous waste and is subject to more stringent disposal. The bereaved are rarely informed of this.

Consequently, if a trial is to be pursued then an assessment of all processes should be considered essential.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

People today believe they have the right to utilise weird processes so this is necessary.

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Some form of control is essential

Yes

Please share your views below:

We don't want people composting bodies in their garden!

They can, of course, inter a body in their garden with little or no supervision.

Please share your views below:

I support (2) in that nobody should proceed with any funerary method without fully understanding the law on such issues.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

(No further views)

Please share your views below:

I do not think a period of imprisonment is appropriate.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

As previously stated, many of the proposals can be considered bureaucratic and likely to deter investment into new funerary methods. These disrupters need to be fostered if new and potentially cheaper and less polluting methods are to be introduced. This is especially so now that local authorities are cash strapped and unlikely to innovate as they did in the past. I cannot produce data or evidence on this view.

I would point out that private cemetery closures have had a considerable social impact in communities over the past. As these new funerary methods would not see the closure of sites in a similar way, I do not see this as an issue.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

I see no evidence of disadvantages.

The advantages are:

1. Greater choice for the bereaved
2. Potential for reduced funeral costs for the bereaved
3. Potential to limit ratepayer costs in reducing the need for councils to provide or extend expensive cemetery grave space
4. The reduction of cremation rates and consequential air pollution

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

I know little about the situation in Wales

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GR4G-3

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-07-15 14:32:49

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

I am happy for my responses to be shared but would rather my name be kept anonymous.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I agree with the statements but would like to see the language altered to provide a more fitting term than 'disposal' as this seems very outdated.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

N/A

Please share your views below:

N/A

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

I do think that licensing would work to improve public trust in new methods and am not against the idea in principle, but it would pose questions on why cremation/burial providers are not licensed and whether or not this should be introduced.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes, I strongly agree that that these principles should be adhered to.

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

I agree in principle, though 'taking part' would need to be strictly defined, so as not to inadvertently include those who may attend such a funeral as a mourner, but are removed from the procurement or application process.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

These methods should be registered just as stringently as burials and cremations.

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes, trials should be regulated, but the regulations should allow flexibility for adaptations to best-practise.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

This seems to be a little unclear on those taking part. I am not sure how you would expect the majority of the general public who may attend, to be aware of whether or not a new method is/should be regulated, regardless of if they know it is a new method.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Agree with the justifications given.

Please share your views below:

I would say yes, but knowing the current stress of the prison system I am not sure that it is practicable to add to that. Suggest considering alternative penalties to imprisonment.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

N/A

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GR46-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-07-15 17:00:50

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I think this seems sensible, although I am not an expert

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I think this seems sensible, although I am not an expert. The regulation of aquamation and human composting would be better regulated as specialist funerary methods to observe the highest quality and relevance

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I think this seems sensible. There may be things in the future that we cannot yet foresee which will need creative and timely responses, which could include new methods of disposition or disposal. I would like to see powers to regulate such things.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

I think this seems sensible. Licensing takes time and resources but people/businesses need to be accountable to the law, and not able to cut corners or misuse their roles of responsibility

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes, regard to all of these.

Please share your views below:

I would need to see more about what each of the 3 above points would include but as long as rights of people with protected characteristics was part of no. 3 and related to dignity then I can't think of any further principles

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

I think this seems sensible, although I am not an expert

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

I think 1 is sensible, that a person be guilty if they do know it is not regulated

Consultation Question 15.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

I think this seems sensible, although I am not an expert

Please share your views below:

I think a fine and restorative justice or community sentence a better use of resources than imprisonment

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GR4H-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-07-16 14:25:01

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Wealden Crematorium (owned by Wealden District Council)

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

N/A

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

No

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

A permanent register should be retained for all new funerary methods to provide a complete record of all legal body disposals in England and Wales. Who and how this person is appointed is up for discussion but should be viewed in a similar or the same way as cremation authorities. Any new funerary method should be required to apply to the Secretary of State to "open" and "operate" a new funerary method site in the same way you must when opening a new crematorium. A register should then be kept by the appointed registrar of the new funerary method operating company or site.

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Cremation is such a well-known method now that clouding this definition by including new funerary methods like Alkaline Hydrolysis could cause confusion. It was also mean that regulations were confusing with some applying specifically to cremation but not others and vice versa. The regulations and legislation should certainly be kept separate from current funerary methods like cremation and burial and licensing should be separate. Possible environmental impact is different for each method therefore Environmental Permit restrictions would need to be very different, including the addition of water monitoring for Alkaline Hydrolysis which would be more important than emissions into the air, as is the way with cremation.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

I think that licensing is the best way to go about this to ensure that regulations are specified and stipulated which are tailored to the particular method being used. As we know - new methods aside from AH and Composting may be developed in the future and so licensing would be a way to ensure each method is regulated as it needs to be. At this stage I don't think it is problematic for there to be a distinction between the established methods of disposal versus new methods. I think it would provide customers/families with the confidence they require in the new methods to know that the person/company carrying it out has been licensed to do so and therefore adheres to regulations specific to the method being carried out. The incident in Hull knocked people's confidence in the funeral profession and I think that funeral directors should also be licensed in due course. Local authorities would be best placed to issue the licenses and the licenses should incur a fee. Licenses could cover the premises rather than a specific person or the person would be responsible for the operators within that premises (like Publicans are responsible for their staff).

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

All three of the above principles are hugely important and whilst they can be covered by existing legislation, as new funerary methods may involve processes that have not yet been foreseen, I think that the Government should be required to have regard for these protections relating to new funerary methods when making secondary legislation.

Please share your views below:

Further principles that should be considered in making secondary legislation are:

Accountability - of the person/company carrying out the new funerary methods be that through registration, licensing or membership of a guiding authority/organisation which sets out guiding principles similar to the ICCM and FBCA.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I agree - there is no good reason for the primary legislation to differ from that which is included in the Cremation Act 1902.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

My view is that in situation 1, we have to make provision for criminal offences prior to knowing the type of new funerary method and what could constitute a criminal offence in relation to this.

Therefore, even in light of the reservations of the House of Lords Constitution Committee, if this is to be future-proofed for all new funerary methods (some which may not have been foreseen) then secondary legislation should be able to create new offences which are relevant to the new method. So I would support point (2) in this case.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Human composting or Organic Dispersal is a long process (up to 6 months) and therefore might need to be housed in an industrial facility rather than a traditional crematorium or chapel type setting. Therefore consideration should be made regarding the amount of space required and whether solemnity or peace is a requirement. It might be that this type of facility would be better suited to an industrial estate where a big warehouse could house many pods. Therefore, the traditional requirements of a crematorium to be housed a certain distance from roads and houses would be potentially negated. Consideration should be made that new funerary methods may be on a larger scale than one. two or three cremators and that the facilities required may exclude members of the public entirely.

It is my understanding that some Organic Dispersal facilities in the US house the pods in individual rooms so that family and friends can visit. Other facilities have large rooms with multiple pods in that same space and would therefore not lend themselves to visits from families or access by the public.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

In order to give people and companies the confidence to pioneer new funerary methods now and in the future, it is not enough to simply use animals. Human bodies would be needed to fully explore and test these new methods. Therefore the ability to provide for approved trials is essential. Applications for trial approval should be permitted and a license for the trial would need to be applied for and approved as part of regulations.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

My view is that there should be a fault element.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I agree that as cremation is a known funerary method and the effects on human dignity, the environment and public protection and safety are set out, the maximum penalty should be greater for a new funerary method as the effects are not clearly known.

Please share your views below:

I do not agree that a period of imprisonment would be appropriate.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

No beliefs or evidence that any of the provisional proposals could result in advantages or disadvantages to certain groups as it would be a choice by either the deceased (depending on the outcome of the Burial and Cremation Reforms) or the applicant for the new funerary method.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

N/A

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GR4W-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-07-17 08:47:28

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I don't have an organisation. I'm a citizen

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

[REDACTED] not too long after was told about recomposing (Katrina spade in Seattle) and very much liked what it represented. I would love it to hold legal status in the uk

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I think every part of death care in this country should be made better, easier, more human/humane.

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

I'm not clear on the whys behind this. Maybe it's necessary and good?

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Keeping (and making) standards that patient the public and set out good standards of death care.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Of course. I certainly consider composting to hold a great deal of environmental benefit and be a valuable and dignified way of caring for the dead.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Seems right. There are venal bastards everywhere in business, unfortunately. Capitalism is awful.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Everything about death care needs to be made more transparent, more open and more human. As well as less mired in red tape or weighed down with unnecessary stuff. Humans have been looking after their dead forever. Take the profit grubbing sleight of hand out of it. Take the weird 'we know best, you don't need to know anything' out of it.

And let us burn people outside on real fire while we're at it. Like natural burial, but for cremation.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

See above

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

I imagine that regulation is better. But I don't know enough

Consultation Question 14.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Perhaps. Not sure. Anything to protect people not punish them, primarily. Sometimes the law seems inhuman.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRJX-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-07-21 10:01:19

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Wirral Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

there are any reasons that would justify having no fault element for this part of the offence, so a person can be guilty even if they do not know that the new funerary method they are carrying out is not regulated and are not reckless as to whether the new funerary method is regulated.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRJB-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-07-24 10:57:06

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Stotfold Town Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

no problem regarding confidentiality

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Yes, fully aware and researched

Please share your views below:

not at the moment

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Need to understand environmental issues if put in cemetery

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Yes, there should be a body that oversees licensing so that it is robustly regulated

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

All three, they are all principles that are very important

Please share your views below:

where this is carried out in relation to residential areas, given how much residential is planned for the next 30 years

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

none

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

No, trials may go wrong, other jurisdictions carry out trials and we can use their data to approve or disprove. Trials wouldn't be independent but by those who have a vested interest in not being truthful about the results

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I'd remove the last part as it's difficult to know that the defendant knew it wasn't regulated, so hard to prove, there should be an assumption of needing to check if it's a new methodology

No

Please share your views below:

i believe 2) is not right, hard to prove and it should be an absolute offense, otherwise it's easy to claim you didn't know

Please share your views below:

reckless seems open to interpretation so easy to defend against. IF you cant be bothered to check its regulated then you're guilty

Consultation Question 15.

No

Please share your views below:

this is a miniscule amount compared with the average wage so not a deterrent

Please share your views below:

interfering with a human body should carry a jail sentence

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

I don't have access to any

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

not aware

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

not aware

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRJZ-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-07-28 16:38:20

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Lancaster City Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

N/A

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I believe that this accurately covers the proposal, and agree with the wording used.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

I am aware of the processes referred to in the consultation, but I do not have any other knowledge about the developments of these,

Please share your views below:

No, I am not aware of any other methods other than those referred to.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, I do agree with this proposal - existing legislation relating to burial and cremation is absolutely essential in order for the processes to be regulated. Therefore, for any other new funerary methods, similar legislation should also apply.

Whilst our organisation does not operate and manage a crematorium, we rely on the legislative process and relevant documentation created prior to arranging an interment within any of our grounds. This provides us with the evidence that the death has been registered, and the deceased cared for in the appropriate manner. The documentation to confirm this, is provided to our office at the time of interment so that we may also cross reference the details of the deceased, which on base level means that we can confirm that we have the correct deceased in our care and that they will be interred in the correct burial plot as arranged.

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Our organisation is not directly involved with the current cremation process, we only manage the interment of the deceased, and therefore I am not appropriately placed to be able to answer this query. However, providing that the legislation is straight forward, and any new funerary method requires the provision to our office with a single document (such as the Certificate C for Burial or Cremation Certificate), then I see no issue.

The resulting matter from any type of funerary method will alter greatly in composition and appearance, and therefore this affects the options for interment. I would state that it is therefore crucial that the regulations should reflect this, with consideration as to where the remains are intended to be placed following one of the new funerary methods.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I believe that if the opportunity is there now to implement regulations then this should be done. As we have seen from recent events, regulations and instructions should be provided to those that care for the deceased at each stage.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Yes, I believe that a facility caring for the deceased should be licensed. If an organisation is managing the disposal of human remains, it is important that this is being done ethically, and with consideration to the environment. Recent news stories of how the deceased had been stored, and cremated, show that wherever possible, regulations and licensing should be used.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes - absolutely, I would support the inclusion of all 3 of these points.

If an organisation conducting these new funerary methods fails to commit to one of the above points, then this would be unethical, immoral, and potentially cause implications for the bereaved family and wider afield.

I would consider all 3 aspects to be vital when establishing a framework for any new funerary method.

Please share your views below:

Consideration should be given to the potential locations of the final resting place of these remains as a result of the new funerary methods.

For instance, can the remaining matter be interred as cremated remains would be within a local government cemetery or a church graveyard or will it contain elements that can affect the surrounding soil.

As the amount of remains are likely to be larger than that of a cremation, consideration should be given to the fact that some burial grounds may not be able to accommodate or adjust existing plots. For instance, our Garden of Remembrance plots are intended to hold up to two sets of cremated remains, with a maximum ashes container size of 12" (which covers a standard ashes casket size). Anything larger would need to be interred elsewhere, or the remains poured directly into the plot, which some families would prefer not to do.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I believe that this should be considered a criminal offence due to the serious nature of caring for the deceased, and the considerable repercussions of not abiding by the legislation. Families should be able to trust those in the funeral industry to care for their loved one.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

No further comment

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

This proposal is supported as it would clearly state to potential applicants where consideration should be given, and that it is not simply an easy business venture that could be set up on a spare piece of land.

If this level of detail was set out in the primary legislation, then it would be informing applicants of the minimum requirements before any further steps were taken.

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

No further comment.

Please share your views below:

No further comment.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes, I do believe that there should be trials in order for new regulations to be relevant, effective and appropriate.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I believe that any new funerary method should be fully regulated, so I would support prohibiting any other new methods not previously covered in this consultation.

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

No further comments.

Yes

Please share your views below:

No further comments.

Please share your views below:

I would support option 1 on this point, as I cannot see any reasons that a person could justify innocence on their part - if partaking in a disposal of human remains, then I would consider it common sense to follow regulations on such a serious matter.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

No further comment.

Please share your views below:

I would support the penalty seen fit by those that are more knowledgeable on criminal offences than myself, but would add that if a deceased is not properly cared for and their remains unlawfully handled, then I would consider that a serious criminal offence. Also, the impact to families if there was any further issue resulting in the unlawful use of a new funerary method would be severe, and likely more damaging as a result of further investigation.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

The only comment I wanted to put forward here is that I have given consideration as to whether the number of interments we manage in our grounds would reduce (or increase) due to the use of new funerary methods.

For example, if a new funerary method is used, would there be a higher demand for suitable interment space of the remains, and would we need to consider acquiring new land or adjusting arrangements we already have in place.

Or, would the use of new funerary methods reduce the demand for interments - particularly burials as families choose other alternatives. We would then need to consider the impact to our income generation, whilst also being mindful that we can offer families appropriate service provision.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Our organisation does liaise with a number of minority groups, but provision is made for their service requests - we have specific areas which cater to their requirements.

So, unless the demand for alternative interment space increased dramatically, I can't see these specified areas being affected.

No, I don't see that minority groups would be impacted with the introduction of new funerary methods.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

No further comment.

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRJ8-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-01 09:57:17

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

private citizen

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

not applicable

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

no

Please share your views below:

no

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I support this approach - there should no be a diminution in the process requirements

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The proposed methods are not cremation and should not be included in that definition

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I agree

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Absolutely - there have been appalling scandals around funeral directors and therefore licencing is essential here

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes - all of the above

Please share your views below:

no additional views

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I agree

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

(1) the maximum fine should be a great deal higher - if the average cost of a funeral is £3-4k surely the fine should be in excess of £5k

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

no further views

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

yes it should

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

no view

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

at least £5k

Please share your views below:

yes - I am in favour of a term of imprisonment

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

no comment

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

no comment

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

no comment

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRJA-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-11 11:50:52

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:
Imogen Jones

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:
University of Leeds

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:
[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:
[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Whilst I agree that the scope of funerary methods is drawn appropriately here, I do think it is important that methods which are designed to preserve bodies as a means to avoid disposal are regulated in line with the same principles as those set out in this consultation.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I can see no reason for the requirements to not align. On the contrary, if the area is to be regulated by reference to the definition of a 'funerary method' as described above, then I would suggest that a coherent scheme which applies consistently is important. This is both because it would make the law clearer for the bereaved, and because it would facilitate more cost-effective regulation.

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The definition of cremation and the associated regulations are specific to burning. It would be a legal fiction too far to suggest that methods such as composting or hydrolysis are burning. To do so would depart from common sense for the purposes of the public.

I would suggest that whilst each method should be defined and regulated separately, the regulations should, where possible, mirror each other in scope and intention.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The use of secondary legislation to approve and regulate new methods, provided it aligns with the consistency point above, would allow the law to be pragmatic and dynamic.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

I do not think a scheme which imposes greater burdens on new methods compared to existing ones can be justified. This would not only act as a barrier to entry, but would restrict access, as it is likely that costs would be passed onto the bereaved. An effective regulation scheme ought to render the licensing system unnecessary. If this is not the case, then the commission ought to advise the government to review the need for licensing for all funerary methods.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes

It is reasonable and appropriate for these to be relevant. In relation to (3. Preservation of human dignity) I would suggest that it is important that this understood in both a cultural and individual context. For example, as acknowledged in the consultation paper, what is dignified is often assumed, but may differ across contexts. My view is that as long as it is not causing public offence, individual wishes (of the deceased person) should take primacy, and beyond that common baseline standards developed which apply across deathcare contexts regarding the treatment of the dead. It is also important to note that what might be undignified may vary – for example, not performing certain rites on a person of the Islamic faith.

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 8.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

I do not think that the harm lies in the creation of the new method per se, and I think that the criminal law should only be invoked as a last resort when there is demonstrable harm.

These are serious penalties, and I do not think that imprisonment is helpful or appropriate. It would be better to focus on financial penalties, removal of licences, and so on. A properly formulated regulatory framework would facilitate this.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Don't know

I do not think that the harm lies in the creation of the new method per se and I think that the criminal law should only be invoked as a last resort when there is demonstrable harm.

These are serious penalties, and I do not think that imprisonment is helpful or appropriate. It would be better to focus on financial penalties, removal of licences and so on. A properly formulated regulatory framework would facilitate this.

Consultation Question 10.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

As per my previous responses, I do not generally favour the power to make or use criminal offences in this context.

If such offences must exist it should be limited in penalties to fines and regulatory action. In this context, the power should encompass this power only.

Consultation Question 11.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

N/A

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

It is important that this move is future proofed. The technology is currently developing, and I would anticipate it continuing to do so. Choice should be maximised to the extent possible, and the safe development of new methods requires regulation based on consent and information.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes – although provision for consented/ethical research to develop new methods needs to fall within the definition of ‘research’ and be facilitated as a non-funerary method.

Consultation Question 14.

No

Please share your views below:

I am generally cynical regarding the use of criminal sanctions, which are a blunt tool.

I do not agree that the use of a new funerary method is a risk to dignity or harm per se. The risks in these areas come not from the use of a new method, but in the granular detail of what that method entails and the way that it is explained to the next of kin.

The fundamental question to me therefore is what purpose is being served both by regulation and by this potential new offence.

To my mind regulation creates consistency, some baseline standards, and some way of attempting to preventing rogue disposals. The protection of public health is also a laudable goal, and one might imagine that errant ‘new’ methods could jeopardise that.

With this in mind I would suggest that there should be an offence, but that it should be justified on the grounds of public health. I do not think that liability should extend to the bereaved who procure a new method, as this potentially criminalises people who are acting in grief and perhaps with good will (i.e. seeking to honour the desires of a now deceased loved one to be disposed of in an as-yet unregulated manner).

I would note that, subject to the recommendations of the first sub-project, the wishes of the now deceased person are not the determining factor in the type of funerary method currently used. I am unclear therefore what dignity violation/harm beyond those relating to public health might be envisaged by this offence.

Yes

Please share your views below:

A question: how would the distinction be drawn between ‘taking part’ and ‘carrying out’. I note that you propose a lower mens rea for this offence, but I am not clear from the consultation where the boundary lies. Is it, for example, based economic gain? Or control of the process?

Whilst I remain generally cynical regarding criminal sanctions, given that the case for regulation is strong, and that to be effective there needs to be some sense of sanction, I would support this offence subject to the caveats regarding clarity of its ambit above.

Please share your views below:

There is rarely a good reason for strict liability offences. They undermine the basis for culpability and extend the power of the state in a dangerous manner. Recklessness is a low bar in terms of proof and in my opinion should always take a subjective form.

As you note at para. 7.40 'it is necessary to try to ensure that only those who are sufficiently culpable can be guilty of the offence'. I see no special reason here for suggesting that new funerary methods are such that there should be no fault element. By making the fault element one of recklessness rather than intention there is already broad scope to capture those who do not care about the law.

I would also note that this is an area of review because of the need to respond to developing methods, technologies and the public demand for them. I am not aware of any empirical evidence that there is sufficiently widespread use of unregulated methods to justify strict liability.

Consultation Question 15.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

In principle, this is reasonable on the grounds set out in para. 7.43 of the consultation paper.

Please share your views below:

However, I am not yet convinced that a scheme which included imprisonment is a positive development. The reason for this is that I am not clear on what the commission thinks might be carried out as a new funerary method which would justify this intervention above and beyond those offences which already exist in relation to public health. If the concern is acts committed done which violate the dignity of the deceased person, then this should be targeted by a separate criminal offence which identifies this rather than being caught by a broad offence which anticipates a range of disparate wrongs.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

I am not in the industry to understand the economic landscape, so would simply add that it is clear from both other jurisdictions and the trend towards the development of new methods here that there is public demand for new methods to be developed and made available. I see no reason that this should not be facilitated – with appropriate regulation – as choice is a good thing and can promote social and individual flourishing.

I would also add that public health is impacted by pollution. Cremation is polluting and we are running out of existing burial space. The development of new funerary methods which provide environmentally sound alternatives is a public health and social good in these ways too.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

N/A

From: [Imogen Jones](#)
Sent on: 12 August 2025 10:11:42
To: [bcnfm](#)
Subject: Additional point re new funerary methods consultation

[REDACTED]

Hallo,
I have submitted my response to the recent consultation re new funerary methods, but hoped to add a note to say that, as per our conversation at the Leeds consultation event, I would urge the commission to take care in your use of dignity/dignified treatment. As you note, this is an important and yet amorphous concept which underpins many of our interactions – whether regulated or not – with the deceased. This is the case across death care/work sectors, including medicine and those sectors regulated by the HTA. However, it is also the case that there is real danger in making assumptions regarding what dignity is or how it is enacted. I would argue that there should be space for this to be informed by the views of the now deceased person, and limited only by public offence, linking up with the other elements of the larger project.

Thanks so much,
Imogen
Dr Imogen Jones
Associate Professor in Law
School of Law
University of Leeds

[REDACTED]

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRJJ-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-12 15:12:19

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

N/A

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

alkaline hydrolysis: due to climate change and increased water footprints in the uk, plus an old and decaying water supply infrastructure, there are significant issues arising from the use of water for the process and for the return of used water into our waste water systems and rivers. Research needs to be done to ensure that the chemical footprint of water used for alkaline hydrolysis will not impact water security and water course biosecurity.

Human composting; the potential legalising of assisted dying in the uk means that more people are likely to think about their funerals in advance, choose this method, but not necessarily be aware of the chemical footprint of medication (paragraph 2.69) and it's impact on the environment.

Please share your views below:

no

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I also think that it would be helpful and clearer if legislation was the same in all 4 parts of the UK.

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I think that the example in paragraph 5.6 (Canada) is a useful way to frame permits for all funerary methods in the future.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

And include regulations about the disposal of substances used for the methods, power usage, emissions resulting from all funerary methods into air, soil and water.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Yes, I think all funerary methods (old and new) should be licensed. Both to give families a sense of security about their loved ones, and to prevent harm to the environment from irresponsible use of chemicals

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes to all three. All funerary methods (new and old) need to have levels of emissions which can be monitored and that will not cause damage or increase risk to the environment or to public health and safety. The new methods are different from the old, and while they can be included within the legislation for older methods, specific clauses may be required for the following areas:

1.Environment: there are environmental costs to both methods. How much power will be used, how it is sourced and the emissions created (from power supply and from other, older funerary processes)

Water supply - where is it coming from, and can it be safely returned to watercourses? How will the use of water for alkaline hydrolysis impact water security in the UK?

2. leaching of prions from human composting, leaching of medication from human composting, checking the safety of water post alkaline hydrolysis: all of these need monitoring and acceptable levels agreeing to protect H&S.

3. Post Hull, it is both topical and necessary to protect the dignity of both family and the deceased person. Most funeral directors and funerary suppliers do this, but the public deserve to be protected from something similar occurring in the future. Legislation and regular checks of all funerary methods would assist with this.

Please share your views below:

It would be useful to have clear monitoring of the comparative popularity, emissions (waterborne, airborne and leached into soil/flora/fauna) and cost of all funerary methods. This could encourage comparative research into the impact of each method.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

I agree with the proposed primary legislation criminal offences. The fines & prison sentences should match legislation for all funerary methods in terms of seriousness.

I also agree with 2 as we do not yet know what the implications for the new funerary methods are, and therefore what the offences might be. Although it is

likely that there will be offences around the use of chemicals and the safe disposal of water waste, bone tissue and soil contaminated with prions.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

elements of process: as the methods are new, government should be able to set guidelines for specific processes (eg temperature reached or chemical concentration to safely deal with pathogens), amount of resources used for process (eg water), and for the safe and respectful handling of remains post process (bones, teeth, soil etc).

inspections: all premises used for any funerary methods should be inspected regularly, and the legislation should have enough breadth that there are appropriate standards for each method

There needs to be clarity in law about who can make decisions about the body of a deceased person, and how he wishes of the deceased person can be carried out. Although these issues are being examined under the rights and obligations project. I believe that this is where the consultation about the respectful handling of unidentified people and fetuses needs to take place

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

I agree with paragraphs 6.123 & 6.124, trials need to be carried out to test new funerary methods, and must be conducted with safeguards in place to protect public health, the environment and to respect the dignity of deceased people and their families.

These safeguards must also make it possible for innovation to be explored, rather than for it to be prohibitively expensive and too cumbersome in terms of legislation.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRJ6-8

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-13 13:05:42

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Blackpool Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

N/A

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

While there are some similarities between alkaline hydrolysis and cremation, and likewise between traditional burial and human composting, these are clearly distinct processes. Natural burial, however, more closely aligns with traditional burial, hence its regulation under existing burial laws. Natural burial still involves interring the body in the ground; the primary differences lie in the depth of burial and the use of biodegradable materials.

Alternative funerary options that significantly diverge from the established methods of burial, cremation, and natural burial should be formally recognised as separate and distinct categories. Clear legal distinctions would help prevent these new methods from being substituted for traditional ones against the wishes of the deceased due to regulatory ambiguity. For example, although human composting mirrors the decomposition that occurs in burial, it differs fundamentally: the body is not laid to rest in the ground but placed in a controlled environment that artificially accelerates decomposition. Moreover, the vessel used is not the body's final resting place, as the resulting soil is typically removed and scattered. This practice contradicts existing burial law, which prohibits the removal of human remains from a place of burial without proper authority.

Although some jurisdictions (such as New South Wales, Australia) have legislated for alkaline hydrolysis under the legal definition of cremation, this approach appears problematic for the reasons outlined above. Notably, certain religious traditions that permit cremation may not accept alkaline hydrolysis as consistent with their doctrinal understanding of the practice i.e. Hinduism. A similar concern arises with permitting human composting under burial law, as it may not align with the cultural or religious significance traditionally associated with burial.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

No

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Death registration documentation should be updated to incorporate new funerary methods. This ensures consistency would be maintained, helping to avoid confusion and support clarity in death registration processes.

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Unlike some countries that regulate alkaline hydrolysis under the definition of cremation, it is important to distinguish this process as a separate funerary method. This distinction is particularly important to prevent its unintended use for religious or cultural reasons. For instance, certain leaders within the Catholic Church have expressed opposition to both human composting and alkaline hydrolysis. Additionally, Hindu traditions generally prescribe cremation by fire, and therefore would not recognise alkaline hydrolysis as consistent with their beliefs. If alternative methods are legally defined as cremation, individuals consenting to cremation today could unknowingly authorise a method they would not have accepted.

Including emerging methods under existing legal definitions, such as cremation, can lead to confusion among families, service providers, and regulatory authorities. Many people associate cremation specifically with the use of fire, and may not understand or accept processes like alkaline hydrolysis as falling under the same category.

These alternative methods often involve distinct procedures, technologies, and environmental considerations. Regulating them separately would allow lawmakers to develop more appropriate standards for licensing, environmental protection, facility design, and public safety. For example, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission includes alkaline hydrolysis in its Radiation Protection Guidelines for Safe Handling of Decedents. The guidance notes that this method is unsuitable for individuals who underwent certain therapeutic nuclear medicine procedures, such as radioactive iodine treatment for thyroid cancer, within specific timeframes, due to the risk of contamination.

Similarly, in Colorado, where human composting is legal, there are specific restrictions on the use of the resulting soil. The soil may not be sold or used by commercial entities to grow food for human consumption, and the remains of more than one person may not be combined without explicit consent. These types of considerations are not applicable to traditional burial and further demonstrate the need for separate regulatory frameworks.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

As a fundamentally different process from both burial and cremation, any new funerary method should be governed by separate regulations that clearly define the safeguards necessary to ensure its appropriate and ethical use as a distinct method.

Regulating such methods under the existing frameworks for burial or cremation would be inadequate, as they raise entirely different considerations. These include, but are not limited to: trade effluent consents, the role of local authorities, the opening and regulation of facilities, inspection protocols, equipment maintenance, staff training, statutory application forms, disposal of remains or ashes, record-keeping, sustainability requirements, health and safety standards, and the development of a specific code of practice.

Attempting to amend the 1902 Cremation Act, where cremation is currently defined as the burning of human remains—would involve redefining cremation in a way that departs from both legal precedent and public understanding. While this might seem like a straightforward solution, it could introduce confusion and inconsistency. Moreover, it fails to anticipate the emergence of other future funerary methods that clearly could not fall under the scope of cremation, which would then require new legislation regardless.

Although redefining cremation to encompass new technologies like alkaline hydrolysis may appear, on the surface, to be a simple fix, the resulting legal and administrative complexities, such as the need for separate licensing systems, new inspection regimes, and broader legislative amendments, would likely negate any perceived simplicity. The more coherent and future-proof approach would be to introduce dedicated, standalone regulation for each fundamentally distinct method.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

As licensing is not currently a condition for cremation and burial, introducing licensing solely for new funerary methods could be seen as unfairly favouring these methods especially if licenses for other methods were made challenging to obtain or current funerary providers didn't want to provide new methods due to the perceived administrative burden to obtain. This could result in unequal access to funerary methods across England and Wales.

Rather than introducing a licensing system, it may be more appropriate to focus on ensuring that regulations for new methods incorporate robust and specific safeguards.

Introducing licensing for new methods poses practical challenges, as there is currently no established framework. Questions would arise around who would issue the licences, the criteria for eligibility, the duration and renewal of licences, and mechanisms for compliance and enforcement. Establishing this infrastructure could delay the introduction of new funerary options and potentially reduce public trust and investment in these emerging technologies.

Applying a licensing regime exclusively to new funerary methods, while exempting traditional ones, risks fostering perceptions of mistrust. Such a regulatory imbalance could reinforce stigma around new methods and hinder their adoption, despite their potential environmental or cultural benefits. If the government wish to go down the license route then all funerary methods including burial and cremation should be subject to licensing to ensure all methods are on an equal legal standing.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

yes we support using the same regulations on protection of the environment and public health and public safety that applies to burial and cremation, however, we think specific provision saying that new funerary methods must be more sustainable than current ones is needed on top.

In the consultation paper it states that “we think that it would not be appropriate to require new funerary methods to be more sustainable than burial or cremation” and that “new funerary methods should be dealt with in the existing system of environmental legislation, which can be amended as necessary.” We disagree with this recommendation. We think the government should follow the example set by the Netherlands. The Dutch Health Council has stipulated that any new funerary method must: reduce the use of finite resources (particularly when compared to burial and cremation), produce fewer harmful emissions than burial and cremation, and minimise the overall use of available space relative to burial. Given the UK Government’s legally binding Net Zero 2050 target under the Climate Change Act 2008, it is counterproductive to permit new funerary methods that may result in higher whole-life-cycle carbon emissions than existing methods. Doing so would likely necessitate costly retrofitting in the future to reduce their environmental impact, an issue already being addressed in cremation through the development of electric cremators.

The consultation argues against requiring new funerary methods to meet higher sustainability standards on the grounds of maintaining consumer choice and not putting off market entrants. However, as the paper itself notes, many new methods are already more sustainable than current options. Therefore, requiring a baseline of improved environmental performance would not restrict innovation or limit choice. On the contrary, it would support the introduction of new methods that align with our climate goals while expanding options for the public from existing ones.

Please share your views below:

Principles all need to be easy to understand and follow for wide comprehension by the industry

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

This would keep consistency with current funerary methods e.g. Cremation Act 1902, preventing confusion and over complications

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Provides consistency with what is imposed for cremation.

Given that new funerary methods have not yet been adopted within the UK, it is appropriate to allow the government flexibility to establish offences related to these methods through secondary legislation as understanding and practices evolve.

It is essential to ensure robust sanctions are in place for operators and others who fail to comply with legislation governing new funerary methods. Effective enforcement is critical to maintaining public trust and acceptance, as any breaches could undermine confidence in these emerging practices as a whole.

However, need to make sure that it is highly clear and understandable for those using the legislation

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

YES – ensures consistency across funerary methods and it is also necessary for the population census as the government must maintain track of how many people have died.

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

As noted in the response to Question 7, I believe regulations governing new funerary methods should include a clear provision requiring that any method permitted for use must demonstrate lower carbon emissions and greater sustainability compared to traditional cremation and burial.

Also supports providers of services to be able to afford to deliver more choices.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes, we believe there should be a regulatory remit to permit trials of currently unregulated funerary methods. Such trials would help identify key issues and challenges, thereby informing the development of comprehensive and effective future regulations. Additionally, allowing controlled trials could foster greater public understanding and acceptance of new methods, building confidence in their safety and appropriateness if they were to become regulated.

Although trials have occurred in the UK in the past without permits, with the government looking to make new funerary methods more easily available, it is likely that larger volumes of trials will take place, making the use of a permitting system seem sensible to ensure they are conducted appropriately.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

This would provide clarity in a current grey area in the law, whilst ensuring the safe and monitored use of new funerary methods preventing risk to public health and public safety or the environment, via the use of new funerary methods under uncontrolled conditions. It will increase public acceptance of new regulated methods by enabling the public to have clarity and confidence that there are safeguards in place for new processes as well as certainty for providers as to how they can and should operate.

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

This feels like a proportional approach.

If they are a funerary provider they should know that it whether the method is regulated or not.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

As a society, the proper and respectful treatment of human remains is of great importance, especially considering public health and human dignity. Given that people may already be hesitant about new funerary methods, demonstrating a firm stance on punishing the use of unregulated methods could help build public trust and acceptance of regulated alternatives.

Since cremation is a regulated funerary method, it follows that penalties, such as fines or imprisonment, should be more severe for the use of unregulated methods than for breaches of regulation within an established method. This distinction would emphasise the seriousness of complying with legal standards and help deter unlawful practices.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

- Length of process needs to be taken account in terms of the grieving process e.g. human composting takes six months, which prolongs the grieving period.
- Deaths are registered in the same way as now so we have a legal process and then new funerary methods are regulated. Can't have a brand new system for registering deaths, process.
- Paperwork on registration – when do you register the composting as the disposal method at the start of the six months or the end.
- Need to consider where these new burials are taking place i.e. space consideration is composting 200 people at the time

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRJ7-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-14 20:52:30

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

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Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

No

Please share your views below:

It is a disrespectful way of disposing of loved ones and they end up in effluent!

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

As a Christian family, we believe in burials in our own home town and very unhappy that our cemeteries are now closed despite old graves being available. There is no family connection to the alternative cemetery on offer and it is miles and miles away from our town. It is not anywhere near a railway station or direct bus service. Also, headstones are placed at either head or foot of grave which doesn't necessarily make it a headstone after all. The other section of this cemetery is for Muslims and headstones are erected in a way to satisfy their religious beliefs. How is this fair?

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRWX-Q

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-15 08:51:52

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

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Not Answered

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Any disposal methods need to defined in statute and regulated.

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

I agree a license should be required, criminal activity has increased in the funeral sector and all measures which safeguard the deceased should be considered.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes - recent events show this is needed.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

New methods focus on breaking down of the deceased body (unlike burial) and therefore cannot be reversed. Any disposal not regulated should not be permitted.

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Dependent on the offence. I don't think imprisonment should be ruled out.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRWR-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-16 10:56:50

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

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What is the name of your organisation?

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If other, please state::

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Email address:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes they should

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

No

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRW1-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-18 04:16:59

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

J.A & J.B BOYLE PTY LTD T/AS THE GENTLE WAY

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Other (please state)

If other, please state::

QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA COMPANY

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

N/A

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

2.42 THE GENTLE WAY

[REDACTED]

2.49 (2) The Gentle Way process is between 4 to 5 hours

2.49 (3) High temperature units at 176.6 Celsius whereas our system is below boiling point.

2.56 The Gentle Way is not cremation, however the name of cremation is used to show people the differences between cremation and alkaline hydrolysis.

Please share your views below:

By incorporating advanced filtration, our process effectively neutralises environmental concerns traditionally associated with alkaline hydrolysis.

The Gentle Way's patent-pending Alkaline Hydrolysis with integrated filtration is the first of its kind worldwide. We have secured patent approvals across multiple countries — a milestone no other company has achieved — by not only meeting but exceeding strict environmental standards.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Alkaline Hydrolysis makes it clear its not cremation.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Funeral Industry needs regulation ensuring ethical and legal requirements are followed

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

A licence to operate an alkaline hydrolysis system requires that adequate training is provided, with the operating company bearing full legal responsibility to ensure all staff are properly trained.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

All of the above should be the minimum requirements.

Please share your views below:

Long term environmental concerns are essential
Dignity and respect matter, families come first

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

1,000 pounds is not a deterrent when a company is deliberately breaching the laws

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

6.94 – Strongly agree.

6.100 – This would ensure compliance with all regulatory requirements.

6.108 – Alkaline hydrolysis eliminates all pathogens and viruses, and when combined with filtration, addresses all environmental considerations.

6.112 The liquid after alkaline hydrolysis has no DNA and the liquid with our system ensures there is no part that constitutes human remains other than the bones and sand like material which returned to the family in a urn.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Approval trials should be approved, and meet trade waste requirements, otherwise town sewers will be compromised and cause major issues down stream.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

All new alkaline hydrolysis system must be approved prior to installation which will ensure they can't operate without approval.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The approval permit must be obtained before installation, and it is the installer's responsibility to verify that the permit has been granted prior to commencing work.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

The Gentle Way system has no negative impact on economic or social factors. On the contrary, it delivers significant benefits by reducing environmental pollution, lowering funeral-related costs for families, and contributing to broader national advantages through improved sustainability and resource efficiency.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Funeral homes that have introduced The Gentle Way system have experienced a significant increase in service numbers. For many families, the traditional concept of cremation by fire is emotionally confronting, yet until recently the only alternatives available were burial or flame cremation. With the introduction of The Gentle Way, families are now offered a gentler, environmentally responsible choice. In fact, our experience shows that once the process is explained, 98% of families who originally enquired about cremation choose The Gentle Way over traditional cremation.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

The benefits to England are the same benefits to Wales, less pollution, cost of funerals should be cheaper and giving people a choice.

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRWT-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funeralary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-18 11:04:38

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

The Good Funeral Guide CIC

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Confidentiality is not required

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funeralary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The provisional definition is clear and specific, whilst allowing for as yet unknown methods to fall under it.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

We are not currently aware of any other significant developments with these processes.

Please share your views below:

We are not currently aware of any other potential new funeralary methods other than those referred to.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funeralary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

It seems logical to mirror the existing requirements in legislation relating to death registration for any new funerary methods.

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

It seems important to have clarity in any new regulation / legislation, and by separating new funerary methods from existing funerary methods in definition and regulation, this will ensure that the public are clear about what is covered.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

This proposal future-proofs the scope of legislation covering this area.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

In the absence of licensing systems in this sector (other than activities covered by the HTA), it seems inappropriate to suggest new funerary methods be subject to licensing.

A requirement for licensing new funerary methods while other providers and operatives in this sector remain unlicensed seems burdensome and unnecessarily onerous, and could act as barrier to innovation and development of new methods.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes, regard to these three principles should absolutely be required when secondary legislation about specific new funerary methods is written.

Please share your views below:

Beyond the three principles outlined, we cannot think of any further principles to which the Government should have regard.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Mirroring existing provision for breach of provisions extending to cremation in primary legislation relating to new funerary methods is sensible and gives parity.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

We do not have adequate knowledge of the advantages or disadvantages of provision under primary or secondary legislation to be able to adequately comment, however, given the significant pressure on Government time from multiple other areas, it seems possible that option (1) would be the better one, ensuring that offences are covered by primary legislation rather than being left to be dealt with under secondary legislation.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Specifying and clarifying in primary legislation the requirements regarding registration of the use of new funerary methods is necessary, and will ensure this is clearly understood by the public.

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

When anticipating future possible developments of new funerary methods it seems sensible to ensure that the power to make detailed regulation about these is sufficiently broad.

Please share your views below:

We have no suggestions on any other matters that might need to be included in detailed regulation of individual new funerary methods beyond those set out in the relevant paragraphs detailed in the question.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Making provision for approved trials of new funerary methods under the power to make regulations will ensure innovation in this area is not discouraged.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

We think it is essential that the public are safeguarded by the law in this area, and ensuring that unregulated new funerary methods are explicitly prohibited under primary legislation will provide that safeguarding and clarity.

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

We consider it will be a positive step to provide a succinct and clear description of how the public might be carrying out a criminal offence by procuring or taking part in a new funerary method which is not regulated.

Yes

Please share your views below:

A simple and straightforward clarification of the law relating to carrying out a new funerary method which is not regulated is welcome. Detailing that a defendant must know that they are carrying out a new funerary method in order to be guilty of the offence will prevent innocent people inadvertently falling foul of this.

Please share your views below:

Option (2) seems to be the more reasonable - anyone involved with carrying out a new funerary method should be aware that they are doing so, and therefore should be strictly liable for their actions. Establishing and proving recklessness in individual cases would seem unnecessarily onerous.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

We agree that the potential for harm involved with carrying out, procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated is greater than the potential for harm involved with the offence of taking part in a cremation except in accordance with with cremation legislation, and therefore we consider that the maximum penalty for the former should be more severe.

Please share your views below:

Yes, we consider that the potential for harm is such that the maximum penalty for the offence of carrying out, procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated should include a period of imprisonment.

Such a potential penalty should deter bad actors from attempting to involve themselves in provision of such funerary methods for gain.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Unfortunately we do not have data or evidence-based views on the likely impacts of the provisional proposals, so we are unable to respond to this question.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

We do not have belief or evidence or data to suggest that any of the provisional proposals could result in advantages or disadvantages to any groups.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

We do not have data or evidence-based views on the likely impacts of the provisional proposals in the Consultation Paper that are specific to Wales, so we are unable to respond to this question.

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRWC-2

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods

Submitted on 2025-08-18 11:18:03

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

████

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

I don't think that new funerary methods should be under more obligations than existing ones.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

I don't think the government should have to consider the preservation of human dignity. If someone chooses to follow a new funerary method, then they consider it to preserve their dignity and I don't think the government should get to decide that for them.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

I don't think the new funerary methods should have more legislation relating to them than existing ones.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

I am strongly against this. Making it a criminal offence to take part in a new funerary method could leave people stuck between attending someone's funeral (and risking arrest) or not getting to say goodbye to them. It may be unclear to attendees that an illegal method is being used until the funeral begins - at which point it would be upsetting and disrespectful to leave.

Consultation Question 10.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

It would be great if UK could be world-leading in new funerary methods, rather than just copying what USA (etc.) have already made legal.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

No

Please share your views below:

I strongly believe that taking part in a funeral should never be illegal. It leads people to have to make a choice between saying goodbye to a loved one and risking arrest. There is a huge physiological benefit to taking part in group rituals round death.

Only procuring an unregulated funerary method should be illegal.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRWU-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-19 10:49:34

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

EASTBOURNE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Happy for this information to be public

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

YES.

Please share your views below:

NONE HELD

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

YES LICENSING SHOULD BE PART OF REGULATION.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

DEFINITELY

Please share your views below:

NO FURTHER VIEWS

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

THE PENALTY NEEDS TO BE A SUFFICIENT DETERENT UNLIKE THE CURRENT PENALTY FOR UNAUTHORISED BURIAL OR DISBURANCE

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

CONVICTION SHOULD CARRY A PRISON SENTANCE

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

RECORDS NEED TO BE KEPT OF EVERY METHOD AND PROCEDURE CARRIED OUT

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

THE REGULATIONS NEED TO BE SIMPLE AND AVOID AMBIGUITY

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

REGULATIONS SHOULD BE IN PLACE BEFORE TRIALS PROCEED

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

WE CANNOT JUSTIFY OR THINK OF AN EXAMPLE WHEN IT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO CARRY OUT A NEW FUNERARY WITHOUT REGULATION

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

YES

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

HOW COSTLY WILL THE INITIAL PURCHASE OF THE EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING FOR STAFF BE AND WILL THERE BE ANY GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY TO ASSIST LA

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

THIS COULD DISADVANTAGE LA FACILITIES IF THERE IS NO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

N/A

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRWN-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-20 17:56:43

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Other (please state)

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I think human composting is best.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

No

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

I don't know if these should be different. Any organisation involved with any funerary methods should have the same regulations around storage and handling the deceased. They should also be regulated similarly in how they should interact with relatives and other members of the public. The difference may occur in long term storage of remains and disposal/burial/distribution of remains (fluid, bones or soil) .

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

All companies should hold a license.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

All three should be expressly considered.

Please share your views below:

Respect for religious or cultural practices.

Consultation Question 8.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

I am unable to comment on appropriate penalties.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Legislation should be adhered to, but I am unable to comment if the penalty is commensurate to the crime.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Human composting should be given a trial. Other new methods in the future should be trialled.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

The public need to be able to understand what is possible and not possible in clear unambiguous language as they will not be experts.

Consultation Question 15.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

No comment.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

I do not think there are any advantages or disadvantages in relation to the Equality Act.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRWE-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-20 21:27:56

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRWZ-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-21 14:44:33

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Stroud Town Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

N/A

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes. The Council agrees with this definition. It is clear, practical, and consistent with how new methods such as alkaline hydrolysis and human composting differ materially from traditional burial or cremation. However, we suggest that explanatory guidance accompanies this in any final legislation to support public understanding and operational clarity.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

No

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Yes. Licensing would be a vital component to ensure accountability and consistent standards across providers. A licensing system would also give local authorities a clearer framework for ensuring environmental compliance and public safety, and for planning enforcement if facilities are introduced within their area.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes. These are appropriate and necessary guiding principles. As a cemetery operator, the Council prioritises respectful treatment of remains and careful environmental management.

Please share your views below:

We recommend that the Government also include clear criteria on land use, and interment of remains (e.g. composted or aquamated material), to support planning and cemetery management

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The use of unregulated methods could pose a risk to public health, environmental integrity, and public trust. There should be clear offences defined in law, with accompanying powers of enforcement.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Option (2) is preferable. Granting the Government the power to create offences by secondary legislation offers flexibility and ensures offences can be tailored appropriately to the characteristics of each new method. The use of the affirmative resolution procedure will ensure appropriate scrutiny.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The Council supports mandatory registration of the use of new funerary methods to ensure traceability, legal compliance, and alignment with death certification practices. This is essential for safeguarding the dignity of the deceased and for consistency across the funerary sector.

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The proposed matters are comprehensive and necessary to ensure a robust regulatory regime.

Please share your views below:

We recommend the inclusion of clear provisions regarding the interment, scattering, or disposal of any physical or liquid remains produced by new funerary methods, especially when those remains are intended to be returned to the family or landowners such as the Council. Regulations should also address acceptable land uses and compatibility with consecrated or designated cemetery land.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes. Provision for controlled trials would enable innovation while protecting public health, the environment, and community confidence. Trials should be subject to local authority consultation and require relevant environmental and planning approvals.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

This is necessary to prevent unsafe, untested, or unethical practices and to maintain public confidence.

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The Council agrees that a fault element should be included. To be guilty of the offence, a person should either know or be reckless as to the fact that the method is unregulated. This ensures fair enforcement and avoids penalising people acting in good faith.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The Council agrees that carrying out a new funerary method without regulation should be a criminal offence due to the potential public health, environmental, and ethical risks. Including a requirement that the defendant knows they are carrying out a new funerary method provides a fair basis for enforcement and avoids penalising individuals acting unknowingly or in error.

Please share your views below:

The Council supports the inclusion of a fault element as described in (1). A person should only be guilty if they know, or are reckless as to whether, the method is unregulated. This ensures proportionality in enforcement and distinguishes deliberate or negligent breaches from innocent mistakes. We do not support removing the fault element entirely, as this could risk criminalising individuals acting in good faith or without sufficient information.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Unregulated new methods may carry greater environmental, health, and reputational risks, justifying a stronger deterrent.

Please share your views below:

Yes. Including the option of imprisonment for the most serious or repeated breaches may be appropriate, particularly where actions were carried out with intent to conceal offences or cause harm.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

As a local council, we anticipate that allowing regulated new funerary methods could lead to moderate capital costs if new facilities are developed. However, these methods may also offer longer-term benefits such as reduced CO₂ emissions, land use efficiency, and greater consumer choice. Clear regulation could attract private investment and public trust. Socially, regulation would provide reassurance for faith communities and the general public.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Yes. Introducing regulated new funerary methods could enhance choice and dignity, particularly for those with strong environmental values or religious beliefs that favour natural return to the earth. However, there may be concerns among some religious communities if new methods are perceived as disrespectful or insufficiently controlled. Robust consultation and sensitive public communication will be essential.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

N/A

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRWM-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods

Submitted on 2025-08-22 12:10:43

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM)

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No.

Please share your views below:

No.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

In principle, regulation could be broadly brought in line. With burial and cremation legislation also being currently scrutinised, it would seem sensible to look at each

new funerary method in isolation in the immediacy of its introduction given the increased scrutiny that such methods are likely to command, then bringing legislation in line at a later stage until the public have increased confidence in the method. This would also encourage consultancies regarding funerary practices to happen more frequently and set a timeframe for the future.

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

As per the previous answer in Q3.68, these new methods should be standalone and clear in their terminology.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, as has been useful in crematoria settings, regulations that can be developed over time to anticipate or deal with change as the deathcare landscape changes would be advantageous.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

As per previous comments, anything that adds another level of assurance to those accessing such services would prove of particular benefit. In the same way that a crematorium currently needs a permit, a new cemetery also needs the same and therefore it would necessarily follow that without a licence or equivalent, a new funerary method would be 'behind' in its conception and future running without one.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Agree that these three points should form the basis of legislation. Further, this should extend to the resultant 'products' of utilising a new funerary method. For example, where a crematorium produces ash, this is vastly different from the resultant remains of human composting and consideration should be given to how these remains are termed, distinguished and that the three points above, as mentioned, are also accounted for within such legislation.

Please share your views below:

As above.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes. We have seen cases within the funeral directing sector which are yet to be concluded that are comparable in terms of misrepresenting the care provided to deceased persons and the impact that this can have on bereaved families. A penalty that is a deterrent would be welcomed.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

A clear definition of 'taking part' is welcomed here. Does this extend to funeral attendance, the disposition of resultant remains or the arranging and completion of a new funerary method style funeral? It is hard to therefore give an accurate response to this question.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, in line with that which is currently comparable to existing funerary practices.

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

As previously mentioned, regard to the status of remains is of particular importance, alongside the further, wider concerns of that which constitutes an NVF. Regulations that gave credence to the validity of a loss regardless of age would be welcomed (as this has been a point of contention for decades that these losses appear to be less 'valid' in statute whilst devastating for a bereaved family).

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes. This would seem particularly necessary for a new funerary method and also perhaps encourage further choice and availability provided by new market entrants for bereaved families. This must be given no lesser consideration and as a direct result, potentially prevent a legitimate new funerary method being shelved in the absence of any mechanism to undertake trials that are legally sound through greater regulation.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes as a continuation to the previous answer.

Consultation Question 14.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Answer to all three of the questions above is again determined on the scope of 'taking part' as in previous answers.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Answer to all three of the questions above is again determined on the scope of 'taking part' as in previous answers.

Please share your views below:

Answer to all three of the questions above is again determined on the scope of 'taking part' as in previous answers.

Consultation Question 15.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Answer to be comparable with that provided under point 6.72.

Please share your views below:

Answer to be comparable with that provided under point 6.72.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

No comment.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

No comment.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

No comment.

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRW4-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-23 00:08:35

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

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What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

none

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

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Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

no problem

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The idea is that new funerary methods are added to the current list of three options. This consultation is suggesting a process of HOW new methods can be added to the list.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Keeping my carbon footprint low after my last breath becomes more and more important

Please share your views below:

Could bodies be turned into pet food with dignity?

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

As mentioned above, I think the current three options should be assessed in the same way as new ones and an expandable list is generated with the rules and regulations for each one.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Yes, some regulatory oversight and the threat of revoking a license is important, because these funerary methods aim to break down DNA and remove all traces of the body.. We don't want that to be misused.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes.

'Dignity' is not inherent in the method, but in the way it is done.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

I'm no expert, but (1) looks easier to implement.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Funerary methods should not be proprietary processes. The technology has to be open source and not linked to a specific manufacturer. Don't allow legislation to be used as marketing!

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

I approve of trialing new methods before they are set in stone.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

If they are legal in other legislatures and there is potential for it to be added to the England&Wales list of approved funerary methods, exemptions (or 'trials') should be allowed.

Consultation Question 14.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

The undertaker carrying out the new funerary method should carry the brunt of the criminal charge. The next of kin of the deceased should not be punished too much.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

A person carrying out a funerary method should have to be licensed to carry it out. So it should not be possible for a professional to 'not know'.

Consultation Question 15.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Taking payment for performing an unregulated funerary method is the crime. Not the executors who might just try to implement a will or a letter of wishes.

Please share your views below:

If it is specifically publicly advertised and performed regularly, or performed recklessly.

If it is a case of trying to accommodate the customer's wishes and conforms with the three principles stated above, I wouldn't imprison.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Cremation produces unnecessary CO2. Burial uses unnecessary space. Specifically composting offers an alternative that keeps the cycle of life going without taking up space.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

It is a drop in the ocean, but any CO2 that isn't burnt into the air (through cremation) benefits future generations.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRWP-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-23 20:15:29

About you

What is your name?

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Personal response

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

n/a Any use of my response.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

That is reasonable and open, allowing new process' if/when they are devised.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

I have been aware of A.H. as developed by Mr S. Sullivan at Resomation Ltd. since 2006. I have followed their development in other countries. I know of their success in the USA.

In South Africa, in 2022, I was given a guided tour of their first Aquamation installation in Cape Town, this was installed by Avbob, a very large FD in the country. My guide was the man who performed the Aquamation of the Most Reverend Desmond Tutu.

I know of the system installed in County Navan, Eire.

Please share your views below:

I am aware of all the methods detailed but not of any other.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

There is no need to change this administrative process. There was enough change brought about by:

- 1) The paperwork introduced following the Shipman conviction.
- 2) The introduction of the Medical Examiner, which is still settling down.

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

That is reasonable. However, I am sure that the Commission does not want to proliferate the quantity of legislation.

It may be anticipated that crematoria will install a single A.H. machine alongside flame cremators. In particular, this might happen when an existing crem replaces their cremators at end of working life and replaces one of them with an A.H. machine.

Having separate legislation for two machines sitting (almost) side-by side in the same working area would present difficulties.

Consultation Question 5.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

This also sounds like possible over reach of the law.

If an organisation (private or public) are licensed to carry out cremation - and inspection shows no problems - then additional laws/regulation seem superfluous.

I am not advocating to make 'light touch' regulations but govt reserving the right to change anything without a new law? That is, if I have understood your proposal and question correctly, not a good idea.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Are their laws/regulations about licensing of crematoria and cemeteries? Then the same may be used for any new funerary method.

Introducing a new license for a new method, may leave all facets of the funeral and disposal trades wondering what happens next. Also 'license' usually means money both to govt and the organisation promoting it. Is that what is being proposed? Any organisation should expect expenditure to bring their new method to fruition but - within reason!

Again, I not suggesting 'light touch' regulation but to follow the existing setup for cremation and burial.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

If these principles are not already incorporated for existing funerary methods - then they should be!

As these principles must be in place for all methods, I would be astounded if they are not already on appropriate legislation.

Please share your views below:

Public Health and Safety should specifically include all staff involved in all funerary methods. Otherwise, a corporate lawyer will dive through the loop hole.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Once again, I must state:

If these principles are not already incorporated for existing funerary methods - then they should be!

As these principles must be in place for all methods, I would be astounded if they are not already on appropriate legislation.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Surely these provisions apply to cremation (in particular) and to any unlawful disposal?

Consultation Question 10.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Just carry over any provisions for cremation and burial - expanded where necessary. We should not have different sets of rules for different methods.

Consultation Question 11.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

The Radius Clause will be needed to prevent numerous objections about traffic.

Given that A.H. takes longer, it may well be that a installation could receive bodies from a number of places where funerals are held. A single installation might be able to cover demand for a city. As demand increases, then it may be viable for crematoria to install their own - but this is more likely in the conurbations.

We could have Direct A.H. at a discreet location. Crematoria who have larger grounds and demand may well build a separate ceremony hall for their A.H.

Please share your views below:

Re: 6.118

I have encountered cases where the intentions and wishes of the deceased have been over ridden by relatives. Whilst it may be argued that the funeral and disposal is for the living - we must take the wishes of the deceased into account.

If the nature of their disposal and/or funeral was important to them when they were alive - then it is still important when they are dead.

Such provision should apply to ALL funerary methods, existing and future.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

An interesting tight-rope! We know that humans can easily learn from progress in other countries - but that they are loathe to do so! We saw this in criticism of A.H. with wild headlines of 'Boil in the Bag' and other nonsense. Therefore, we will need to allow for observed testing by third parties - such as the Cremation Society of Great Britain and the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management.

Development companies would need to have their approval of tests.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

We must be even handed. That said, A.H. is currently the only method that is working, I cannot see Promession ever working. The most likely new methods are Composting and cremation on a pyre that meets emission regulations.

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

We must be even handed as the public must be able to trust all facets of the funeral and disposal trades.

Yes

Please share your views below:

as above. Be even handed with all.

Please share your views below:

My understanding has always been 'ignorance of the law is no mitigation'. If that still holds, then there is no case to answer - the defendant is at fault.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

This is outside my knowledge so cannot comment.

Please share your views below:

We have enough people in prison - extended community work in addition to the fine.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

██████████ this is outside my scope. I can only say that the arrival of 'green burial' has been welcomed by many, although still a marginal percentage of burial. I expect this to change as the generations who have most welcomed this reach the end of their lives.

If I may, a comment on burial space to which you refer in 8.7: The return to limited time of a grave before re-use will take many years to work through but will provide, I suggest, great benefits to the public and (of course) to the owners of cemeteries of all types. I can only hope that this change is being taken up with enthusiasm!

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

I cannot see any impact of disadvantage. ██████████ - there has never been evidence of disadvantage.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

not applicable to my experience.

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRW8-Q

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-24 19:56:57

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

[REDACTED] the largest human composting company in the United States (and therefore likely the world). We would be happy to serve as subject matter experts as the UK considers legalizing human composting. We have been involved in the legalization and regulatory process in a number of different jurisdictions at this point.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Human composting shares many similarities with cremation, and operating a human composting facility is very similar to operating a crematorium. The process is of course different, but chain of custody and many of the other processes are the same.

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Yes - provided the process is not overly cumbersome.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

This seems a great lens through which new processes are considered. Dignity however is somewhat subjective -- what is dignified for some, might not be for others. New processes should not need unanimity (which is likely impossible when different religious and cultural views are expressed -- this has not stopped something like cremation, for example).

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

This seems reasonable.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

This is a sensitive subject - and allowing anyone to come up with a new funerary method seems high risk.

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRW3-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-25 16:29:51

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:
Troy Fielder

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:
University of Cambridge

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:
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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:
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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

N/A

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Generally, I believe that this adequately covers the scope of new funerary methods.

The only complication that may arise from this definition would be 'in-ground composting' (explained in my response to Consultation Question 3) which, in appearance, falls under the scope of standard burials but may, in practice, represent a significant departure from the practice of standard / natural burials.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Yes. The Natural Funeral, operating out of Boulder, Colorado, are developing a modular human composting technology which - if deployed at scale - would seek to standardise the process, techniques, and timescales of human composting. This technology has been inspired by the work initiated at Recompose, but has been further developed from in-house experience of human composting. This represents a potentially significant step towards fulfilling the needs of a growing human composting market. Moreover, the deployment of this type of technology would lower the current barrier to entry - namely the need for in-house engineering expertise to manage the process - for funeralcare providers. If successful, and if the practice is legalised in the UK, then both the product and its deployment would need to be tightly regulated - especially as it may form the bedrock of a nascent human composting market in the UK.

Please share your views below:

Yes. In Washington (WA), [REDACTED] is developing an in-ground composting process which uses some of the methods of human composting but does not use a vessel. This practice involves, in effect, aerating the body when it is in the ground to speed-up the process of decomposition. Though this practice happens in-ground, it is an intervention that requires constant monitoring and technical expertise. Though the practice is still in its infancy, it could represent an interesting regulatory challenge if deployed in the UK.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

By defining and regulating these practices separately, you would allow for sufficient specificity in the regulation of the new funerary methods - this would hopefully allow for sufficient clarity for death care operators, accountability for practitioners, and the development of best practice.

Moreover, separate definition and regulation would allow for the opening of e.g. funeral homes that could specialise in the new funerary methods without being bound to the constraints imposed by regulation around cremation.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

On one hand, it seems that licensing would allow for appropriately specific regulation on new funerary methods and would generate a clear route to accountability for practitioners. However, it also seems that - compared to current practices - licensing requirements might produce a competitive disadvantage for those attempting to practice new methods. In particular, if there are resource constraints on the speed / efficiency of license provision then entrepreneurs that are attempting to enter the death care space and offer new, alternative options to the current provision may be at a disadvantage. In short, the addition of a licensing provision may mean that the competitive advantage of current death care providers (i.e. those who can wait out licensing delays) is unfairly compounded. This could result in the consumer advantage from the introduction of new methods, and the diversification of the death care space, becoming limited.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRWV-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-26 17:36:19

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Central England Co-operative Society Ltd (Trading as 'Central Co-op')

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

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What is your email address?

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

N/A

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The proposed definition is clear and appropriate. It distinguishes new methods from traditional practices while focusing on the core purpose of body disposal.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

We are not currently aware of significant developments beyond those listed in paragraphs 2.39–2.85. However, we encourage ongoing review of international practices, particularly in Canada and the U.S., where alkaline hydrolysis and natural organic reduction appear to be evolving rapidly.

Please share your views below:

We are not aware of other potential new funerary methods.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Maintaining consistency in death registration across all methods ensures legal clarity and continuity in vital records.

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

New methods should be regulated separately to reflect their unique processes, risks, and ethical considerations. This avoids confusion with all our existing cremation or burial laws.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Primary legislation should empower the government to approve specific methods and define how they are carried out, ensuring flexibility and oversight.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

We support licensing.

Licensing adds a layer of accountability and ensures that only qualified providers operate new methods, protecting public trust and safety.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

We agree. The three proposed principles—environmental protection, public health/safety, and human dignity—are essential.

Please share your views below:

We would also recommend adding cultural and religious sensitivity as another guiding principle.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Criminalising dishonest or malicious use of new methods is necessary to protect the public and uphold the integrity of the funeral industry.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

We support option 1.

Primary legislation should establish offences for breaches, with proportionate penalties. This provides clarity and immediate enforceability.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Mandatory registration ensures traceability, transparency, and proper record-keeping, which are vital for public confidence and legal compliance.

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The proposed scope is comprehensive. It should remain broad to accommodate the unique requirements of each method and for any future innovations.

Please share your views below:

We have nothing to add here.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

We support this approach. Approved trials are essential for evaluating safety, public response, and operational feasibility before any full-scale implementation.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

We entirely agree. Explicit prohibition is necessary to prevent unregulated practices and ensure all methods meet legal and ethical standards.

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

We support the proposal that it should be a criminal offence to procure, take part in, or carry out a new funerary method that is not regulated, provided the individual has knowledge of both the method and its unregulated status. This ensures accountability and protects the public from unsafe or unethical practices.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Regarding the fault element, we support the inclusion of a requirement that the individual either knows the method is unregulated or is reckless as to its regulatory status. This strikes a fair balance between enforcement and fairness, ensuring that only those acting with intent or disregard are held criminally liable.

Please share your views below:

We do not support a strict liability offence without a fault element, as this could unfairly penalise individuals acting in good faith or without access to clear regulatory information.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Given the sensitive nature of funerary practices and the potential for harm, we agree that the maximum penalty for using an unregulated method should be more severe than the current penalty for unauthorised cremation.

Please share your views below:

We also support the inclusion of a potential custodial sentence in serious cases, particularly where there is evidence of intent to deceive, conceal a crime, or cause distress to families. However, penalties should remain proportionate and consider any mitigating circumstances.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

The proposed regulatory framework is likely to have the following impacts:

- Economic: Initial costs for infrastructure, training, and licensing may be high, particularly for small funeral homes. However, long-term benefits include operational efficiency, market diversification, and alignment with consumer demand for sustainable options.
- Social: The proposals will increase choice and personalisation for families, particularly those seeking environmentally conscious or non-traditional options. However, care must be taken to ensure that new methods are introduced in a culturally sensitive and inclusive manner.

International experience (e.g. in the U.S. and Canada) suggests that with proper regulation and public education, these methods can be successfully

integrated into mainstream practice.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

The proposals may have positive impacts on:

- Environmentally conscious individuals
- Younger generations
- Non-religious or secular communities

However, they may also present challenges for:

- Faith communities with specific doctrinal views on body disposal
- Low-income families, if new methods are priced at premiums
- Older adults or those unfamiliar with emerging technologies

To ensure equity, we recommend that the Government prioritise public education, inclusive consultation, and financial accessibility as part of the implementation strategy.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

N/A.

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRWJ-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-27 11:23:19

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Westerleigh Group

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

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[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

.

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, fully agree.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

The only significant development we are aware of is that there appears to be wider public awareness of Alkaline Hydrolysis in the UK. We are advised by a supplier of AH equipment that they have had over 120 enquiries in the last year from members of the public asking where in the UK this new process is available.

This is possibly a result of additional jurisdictions across the world either now permitting the process such as New Zealand (Christchurch NZ June 2025) or considering regulating the process (Netherlands).

Please share your views below:

No we are not aware of any new funerary methods under development.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, fully agree. It would only be proper that the final disposal of the body for new funerary methods follow the same legal requirements and process for death registration as those being cremated or buried.

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, agree. It will provide clarity to operators and the bereaved about the differences between a new funerary method and existing regulations for cremation and burial.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, agree that this is an effective provision and a future-proof way forward that would help if other new funerary methods were ever realised. This has always been clear regarding the Cremation Act and subsequent Cremation Regulations so would make sense to enable regulations to be made approving the use of specific new funerary methods.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

We would expect regulations to be sufficient for a new funerary method providing it sets out the conditions for use and taking into account any new considerations for the dignity of the deceased and public/operator safeguards similar to the cremation regulations.

While a license may provide public reassurance, robust regulation would be of greater reassurance as an operator would be accountable under law. Licensing a new funerary method would raise the question 'why is cremation or burial not licensed in the same way?' In addition licenses usually come with a fee and are often renewable which may prevent potential operators investing in a new method or result in increased fees to the public for existing operators.

Regulation would be preferable.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Absolutely, primary legislation must require the principles of dignity of the deceased, public health & safety and environmental protection within any regulations for all new funerary methods. This is fundamental belief and priority of those working within the bereavement profession.

Please share your views below:

The principle of public safety and dignity of the deceased should ensure new funerary methods are only carried out by private companies or public authorities in a premises suitable for such processes. This is similar to cremation whereby the burning of human remains can only take place in a premises whereby notice has been given to the Secretary for State and be subject to inspection. This would have the potential to prevent new funerary methods that have been regulated being conducted in inappropriate facilities.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, fully agree.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

We believe the maximum penalty should be increased for both current and new funerary methods as the current scales are inappropriate in 2025. This should also include in a higher fine but also on indictment a prison term to deter any false application. Primary legislation should be sufficient in these cases.

Although rare, we have had instances where a cremation application is known to include a false statement, such as rightful next of kin being unaware of the cremation or an objection. Our crematorium managers have a duty to advise applicants of a potential crime being committed if they become aware of a false statement of truth being signed on the application.

Secondary legislation would be appropriate and likely necessary for current 'unknowns' in new funerary methods such as stated in the consultation document around storage of harmful chemicals in the provision of Alkaline Hydrolysis. Most reputable operators would naturally have safety processes, COSHH and risk assessments for such circumstances.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, agree. It is very important that a comprehensive system of registration is recorded for any new funerary method.

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, fully agree. These matters are enshrined in Cremation & Burial practices/regulations and work very well. Continuity with new funerary methods seems logical.

Please share your views below:

Perhaps consideration on matters such as operators of new funerary methods are responsible and have the rights to dispose of any metal residues from the process how they feel fit. In addition to clarifying the metal remains are not part of the body and are legally abandoned upon making the application to dispose of the deceased body.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Agree trials should be permitted to encourage innovation on new funerary methods and offer potential choice to the bereaved. Conditions should be imposed to ensure any trial does not cause harm to the public or impacts the dignity of the deceased.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, agree.

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, agree.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, agree.

Please share your views below:

No legitimate operator will offer an unregulated disposal method. We cannot think of any examples where an unregulated method has been attempted other than the family who desired an open cremation pyre.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, agree.

Please share your views below:

A fine on its own may not be much of a deterrent so imprisonment would demonstrate that disposing of a dead person in an unregulated manner is a serious offence.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

No comment.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

New funerary methods can only provide greater choice to the bereaved or the wishes of the deceased. Therefore we do not believe or have any evidence that any new regulated funerary method would result in advantages or disadvantages to certain groups.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

No comment.

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRW5-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-27 13:26:04

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Kindly Earth Limited/Resomation Limited

Kindly Earth represents Resomation alkaline hydrolysis technology in the UK.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Agreed that this is a clear and comprehensive definition.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Responding on behalf of Resomation Ltd as UK manufacturers of alkaline hydrolysis systems:

- A Resomation system has been installed in Christchurch, New Zealand at funeral directors Bell, Lamb and Trotter's premises and alkaline hydrolysis has been offered since early June 2025. Early indications of uptake are extremely positive.
- In Flanders, Belgium, a Resomation system is soon to be installed for a short pilot study commissioned by the government which commences in October 2025.
- Progress towards regulatory approval continues in a number of European countries and the remaining US states.

Ongoing technical developments include:

- Programme of continuous efficiency improvements in areas such as:
 - o Reduction of utilities consumption and chemicals usage.
 - o Reductions in cycle times (i.e. how long the process takes).
- Development of use of web-based technology for equipment diagnostics and support and to monitor process integrity.

Please share your views below:

No, other than previously explored alternative methods such as Promession.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Legislation needs to clearly define the role and characteristics of “the person effecting the disposal” and the official documentation required to record the details- which, as the Consultation Paper suggests, should align with the (existing) requirements for burial and cremation.

Format and maintenance of registers should also be defined and include comparable information for new funerary methods as for burial and cremation.

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

It makes sense to define and regulate new funerary methods separately, also individually as is proposed:

- This avoids complexity in attempting to maintain alignment across what may be very diverse processes and allows each new method to be considered independently.
- This makes longer term provision for future innovation in funerary methods.

It could be argued that, in the specific case of alkaline hydrolysis, inclusion in the definition of cremation might be reasonable. The outcomes of the disposal are similar to cremation (in that powder is returned to the family in the same manner as ashes, and that the body is disposed of irretrievably). Also, there are other jurisdictions which have already included alkaline hydrolysis in the definition of cremation. However, there would be challenges implicit in taking this approach:

- Terminology- whilst alkaline hydrolysis is often referred to as “water cremation”, there has been much debate as to the accuracy of the use of the term “cremation” in this context. Transparency and the use of factually correct language have become matters of greater priority in the funeral sector over recent years.
- Not to adopt a consistent approach for all new funerary methods might be considered counterintuitive to the aims of the project.

It is noted that the Consultation Paper does state that taking the approach of separately regulating each new funerary method does not preclude regulations from mirroring those for existing methods if appropriate.

When considering the forms and records in place to administer the process of arranging a funeral using a new funerary method, it is important to ensure that these are aligned as far as is practical with existing funeral methods. This to maintain familiarity and minimise complexity for those working in the sector (and, to some extent, (depending on experience) for the bereaved).

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

We would support the proposal that new legislation should contain a power to make regulations about new funerary methods, and the ability to make different regulations according to each method.

As manufacturers of alkaline hydrolysis equipment, we would refer to the need for further exploration, in the event of the existence of such a power, of what would provide the motivation for those having the power to exercise it. This from both commercial and practical perspectives.

Naturally, we strongly believe that availability of greater choice in end-of-life options is overdue here in England and Wales and are anxious to accelerate momentum and sense of urgency.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Balanced against the risk that licencing might feel overly onerous at a time when existing methods are not licenced, and consequently discourage parties from becoming providers of new funerary methods, there are several arguments in its favour:

- As the Consultation Paper states, secondary legislation would need to be less detailed if underpinned by (detail contained within) individual licences.
- Licensing could allow for:
 - o Variation within individual new funerary methods as technology is developed.
 - o Variation in operating models/operators of a new method.
- Licensing exists/is being developed in other parts of the sector:

o Scotland- funeral director licencing scheme under development.

o HTA- licensed mortuaries.

- The David Fuller Inquiry Phase 2 report (and the previous Interim Report) recommends an urgent need for an independent statutory regulatory regime for funeral directors, to include a licensing scheme.

The risk of licensing of a new funerary method being a deterrent/barrier to entry for potential operators appears reduced when the wider current context and direction of travel in the funeral sector is considered.

Licensing implies inspection, transparency and ongoing review of compliance which could be advantageous in building public confidence in a new funerary method.

The possibility that new funerary methods may be operated at facilities shared with other related activities (such as crematoria/burial grounds/funeral directors) should be noted. (i.e. in terms of the scope of any licence).

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Whilst legislation for existing methods does not specifically reference regard to these principles, it is hard to argue against taking them into consideration when developing secondary regulation for new methods. It may further strengthen public confidence to promote that these principles underpin any new regulations. (Equally, the public may expect them to be a given in legislation for existing methods).

There are some complexities to explore:

“Dignity is a highly subjective concept, often influenced by religious beliefs and tradition. Further practical sub-principles (i.e. which can actively be applied within a process) may need to be established to explain how any new funerary method would be evaluated in terms of “Dignity”. For example, how the deceased is handled, prepared for the funeral, and privacy and decency could be considered.

The Netherlands Health Council have developed such principles which include no mixing of the remains/no public visibility of the disposal or decomposition/security of the body and remains.

- “Respect” is often used in relation to the dignity of the deceased- it could be argued that the principle should be extended to include this i.e. behaviour shown towards a deceased person by others in order to preserve their dignity.

- There may be instances where the principles conflict. During the Covid pandemic, for example, usual standards of care of the deceased had to be altered in order to protect public health. Guidance should be provided to account for scenarios such as this.

Please share your views below:

The Fuller Inquiry Phase 2 report refers consistently to the security (and dignity) of the deceased in all settings after death and prior to the funeral, in addition to the need for safeguarding policies and procedures to support this. The recently published CMA Funerals sector review of market outcomes 2025 echoes these themes.

With this in mind, security may be needed as an additional principle, or else, as considerations are largely in relation to physical security systems and protocols, could be detailed within the licences given for individual facilities.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

It is appropriate that these offences should mirror those for cremation.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

1. It is appropriate that this offence should mirror that for cremation.

2. From the detail and potential scenarios provided in the Consultation Paper, creating a “catch-all” offence in primary legislation of acting in contravention of the (future) regulations would not be appropriate. The proposal to provide for the creation of additional offences, if required, within secondary legislation and specific to the new funerary method under consideration is the better approach.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

We would agree with the approach to registration as set out in the Consultation Paper. Ensuring that the registration process is consistent across all funerary methods will provide robustness and clarity.

Specifying the details about how this is done and who should complete the registrations in secondary legislation is important. Establishing who the accountable person is, their position within the “authority”, and the accountabilities of the role, is key to assuring that there is clarity of this function from the outset. Future providers may not have prior experience of being a disposal authority.

It is suggested that timescales for the return of registrations are also included, as well as the follow up process (from GRO) if any detail or record is missing or under query.

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The power to make detailed secondary regulation about a new funerary method should be broad enough to cover the matters set out in paragraphs 6.85 to 6.119 of the Consultation Paper.

Please share your views below:

Additional observations are:

- As stated, cremation regulations do not include detail about the process of cremation itself as this is covered in part by environmental regulations. Greater process detail and operating standards would be required within secondary legislation for any new funerary method.
- Standards for maintaining the security and dignity of the deceased (re Fuller Inquiry report) should be included. For cremation, the deceased is received in a closed coffin. New funerary methods such as alkaline hydrolysis and human composting require handling of the deceased person- these activities require specific consideration and care.
- (Any) storage of the deceased prior to the disposal (akin to holdover for cremation) should be considered.
- With reference to location- the proposed approach that primary legislation should include a broad power to ensure that location is considered- but without specific provision (e.g. the radius clause) makes sense. In the case of alkaline hydrolysis, a variety of future operating models (and therefore locations for the equipment) are possible.
- As well as medical devices, the process for handling any implants should be considered.
- The way in which any by-products from new funerary methods are managed, if these are not covered elsewhere within environmental regulations for example, should be considered.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Approved "trials" should be provided for, however this provision needs to be broad enough to allow for a range of potential objectives- such as:

- Testing of the efficacy of a process of disposal (technology/equipment)
- Assessment of public/funeral sector attitudes to a new funerary method
- Assessment of the environmental impacts of a new funerary method

As well as other objectives which may become apparent as new methods emerge.

An easily understood framework against which new methods can be assessed to determine which trials, if any, are required would assist (potential) operators when seeking approval.

It is important that trial approval can be obtained (e.g. in the form of temporary permitting or licencing) without undue complexity, cost and consumption of time to minimise the risk of limiting innovation or preventing or delaying a new funerary method from being available to the public.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

There has to be a consequence of using a non-regulated method, otherwise the current unclear position as set out in the Consultation Paper would prevail.

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

It is difficult to imagine that anyone procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method could be unaware that it was a) new and b) not regulated.

(During one of the Consultation Events, the question was raised as to whether attendance at a funeral involving an unregulated method would constitute "taking part in". Further clarification would be helpful).

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

The fault element is needed- for example to protect a potentially innocent employee who is not aware of the regulatory status of a new funerary method their employer is operating.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

It is possible that a new unregulated funerary method might cause greater harm- such as in respect of public safety or preservation of human dignity. The level of risk/unknown being the key consideration here.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Responding as a provider of alkaline hydrolysis systems, and within the context that the ultimate intent of the provisional proposals is to provide for the development of regulation of new funeral methods:

ECONOMIC

- Impact of any future regulations will be limited as they will permit but not impose any activity. The decisions to operate, offer (i.e. to the bereaved) or select (i.e. funeral clients) new funerary methods will all be matters of choice.
- When alkaline hydrolysis is available as a funeral option, funerals may be “redistributed”, however overall funeral volume will obviously be unaffected.
- The nature of the alkaline hydrolysis equipment and its operation means that there is potential for new entrants such as funeral directors to provide disposal services.

SOCIAL/CLIENT

- People in England and Wales will have access to an additional funeral choice which is known to appeal to some based on preference for water over flame and lower environmental impact. Based on our experience in the US and most recently in New Zealand, where alkaline hydrolysis is offered alongside cremation as a direct alternative, (and with price parity) more funeral clients choose alkaline hydrolysis.
- No coffin is required for the process. Whilst this will be a matter of client choice, it is anticipated that lower cost/recyclable options will be available (for safe and dignified transportation of the deceased).
- There has been growing expectation that alkaline hydrolysis would soon be available in England and Wales for some years now. There have been periods of heightened media interest at certain points- including most recently when this Consultation Paper was published. Managing public expectations has inevitably led to disappointment for some people- a small minority have arranged for deceased family members to be transported to another jurisdiction to access alkaline hydrolysis.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

(Future) advantages or disadvantages will largely be specific to each individual new funerary method.

One obvious consideration is that, once a new funerary method is regulated, it will be some time before it is available in all areas. Which means that either this option will not be available to everyone, or else transportation of the deceased will be required to access the service.

Working to balance public demand with capacity to provide any new funerary method in this most sensitive of services will be paramount.

The position on the timing and criteria to allow a new funerary method within a formal FCA regulated funeral plan needs to be considered- as well as the impact on those holding existing funeral plans who may want to change their choice of funeral type when new methods become available.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRWY-R

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-27 16:00:58

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

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What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Society of Local Council Clerks

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

No confidentiality required

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No - not aware of other processes that break down the body for the purposes of disposal at the present time.

Please share your views below:

No

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

SLCC would also support the views of other stakeholders that a clear pathway to the use of new funeral methods would be preferred (para 3.70)

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

But - the definition of cremation as being "disposal of a dead body in a crematorium, by incineration or by other physical means or chemical process" (para 5.16) with the addition of defining "crematorium" as a building or part of a building use for the purpose of cremation which includes "appliances and other equipment incidental or ancillary to that purpose" (para 5.17) would also be appropriate in respect of some new funeral methods.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

The licensing and inspection of public authorities, faiths and private organisations operating new funeral methods (however defined by regulation) are essential to ensuring public accountability, effectiveness of operational safeguards and compliance with licencing terms and conditions.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes with regard to:

(1) Environmental protection

(2) Protection of public health and safety

(3) Preservation of human dignity

Please share your views below:

In addition to Question 7

Respect for the doctrines and beliefs of Churches and established secular bodies

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Strongly

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

(1) Present criminal sanction financial penalty seems appropriate.

(2) The Government should have powers, subject to the approval of Parliament, to create new offences which contravene the statutory regulation of new funeral methods.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

SLCC assume the location of land and buildings use for new funeral methods would be subject to the approval of planning authorities in consultation with other agencies and local communities (para 6.90)

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

SLCC would support pilot schemes/trials of new funeral methods in consultation with professional bodies representing burial authorities, crematorium operators and Church bodies in England and Wales.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

(1) and (2) the disposal of a body by whatever means without lawful authority is too serious an offence to justify a no fault or non reckless misunderstanding of whether or not a new funeral method is regulated.

Be it a whole body, body parts or cremation disposal by a new funeral method it is likely to offend public decency if an unregulated funeral were not subject to some form of criminal or civil penalty.

Consultation Question 15.

No

Please share your views below:

The maximum penalty should be similar for all offences even if the current level 3 fine is raised.

Please share your views below:

Judges and Magistrates should be given powers to impose a period of imprisonment as an alternative to a civil fine of up to £1,000 for the disposal of bodies using new unregulated funeral methods.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Although all local councils (parish, town and community councils) in England and Wales are burial authorities and have powers to provide both cemeteries and crematoria (Local Government Act 1972, S214) only one local council in England (Huntingdon Town Council) has its own crematorium.

SLCC would suggest the social and economic impact of the proposal regarding new funeral methods, whilst welcome as alternatives to traditional coffin burial or interment/scattering of cremated ashes, is likely to be limited.

It is unlikely new funeral methods will significantly relieve the pressure on local authorities and the Church of England and Church in Wales to create more new burial space in cemeteries and churchyards given they are, for many families, still the traditional and preferred final resting place for next of

kin and relatives irrespective of funeral costs. The growth of lower cost direct or unattended cremations does not seem have reduced the numbers of ashes interments in cemeteries and churchyards. Local council cemetery managers are not expected any near term reduction in new coffin burials as more families choose to arrange direct to grave burials.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

No information or data

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

No information or data

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRWA-Z

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-28 08:31:49

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Durham County Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

No not confidential

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

(i) Response - Beyond alkaline hydrolysis and human composting, there have been conceptual developments involving cryogenic freezing and freeze-drying (promession), though these are not yet operational. Continued monitoring of technological advancements is recommended to future-proof legislation.

Please share your views below:

(i) Response - Beyond alkaline hydrolysis and human composting, there have been conceptual developments involving cryogenic freezing and freeze-drying (promession), though these are not yet operational. Continued monitoring of technological advancements is recommended to future-proof legislation.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Strongly agree. Consistent registration requirements across all funerary methods are essential for legal, historical, and investigative purposes. This ensures parity and avoids undermining the integrity of the death registration system.

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

New methods should be regulated separately to reflect their distinct processes and implications. Including them under existing definitions (e.g., cremation) may lead to confusion and regulatory gaps. If regulation is required, then it should be developed in a timely way.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

A flexible regulatory power allows the Government to respond to emerging methods and set appropriate standards for each. This should be clearly defined in primary legislation.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Support inclusion of licensing. Licensing ensures accountability, safety, and quality control. However, care must be taken to avoid creating barriers for existing providers transitioning to new methods.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Agree with the proposed principles: Additional principles could include: Transparency and public engagement, Cultural and religious sensitivity and Accessibility and affordability

Please share your views below:

Agree with the proposed principles: Additional principles could include: Transparency and public engagement, Cultural and religious sensitivity and Accessibility and affordability

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

These offences are proportionate and necessary to deter misuse and protect public trust. The proposed penalties are appropriate.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Option 2 is preferred: allow Government to create offences via secondary legislation, subject to an affirmative resolution. This provides flexibility while maintaining parliamentary oversight.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Strongly agree. Mandatory registration ensures traceability and consistency with existing practices. Regulations should clearly define the responsible parties and procedures.

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Regulation should cover these areas.

Please share your views below:

Additional considerations: Community consultation, Emergency protocols and Data protection and record-keeping.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Support inclusion of trial provisions. Controlled trials allow for evidence-based evaluation before full implementation, ensuring safety and public confidence.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Explicit prohibition is necessary to prevent unsafe or unethical practices and ensure only vetted methods are used.

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The fault element should include knowledge or recklessness regarding regulation status. This balances deterrence with fairness.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The fault element should include knowledge or recklessness regarding regulation status. This balances deterrence with fairness.

Please share your views below:

The fault element should include knowledge or recklessness regarding regulation status. This balances deterrence with fairness.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Penalties should be more severe than for cremation breaches, potentially including imprisonment, to reflect the seriousness of unregulated disposal.

Please share your views below:

Penalties should be more severe than for cremation breaches, potentially including imprisonment, to reflect the seriousness of unregulated disposal.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Agree with the potential positive impacts. Potential challenges: Initial infrastructure costs, Public education and acceptance and Regulatory enforcement capacity with new burdens.

The Council supports the Law Commission's proposals and emphasises the need for:

- Clear, inclusive, and future-proof regulation
- Public engagement and education
- Infrastructure readiness

- Safeguards for equality and environmental sustainability

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Care must be taken to ensure new methods do not disadvantage groups based on religion, culture, or socioeconomic status. Inclusive consultation and flexible regulation are key.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Wales may face unique challenges due to rural geography and devolved governance. Coordination with Welsh Government and local authorities is essential to ensure equitable implementation.

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRW9-R

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-28 16:23:35

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

No need to keep my responses confidential

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

With the ever increasing diversity of the British population, there may be an increased desire to introduce new funerary methods into the UK for cultural reasons. I think an awareness of the potential future requests is important.

in paragraph 2.77 it states "It is an offence to remove human remains from a place of burial without authority". Whilst this is currently the case, there are burials to vaults in some countries, where after a set period of decomposition, the bones are then removed and placed in an Ossuary or alternative place of burial. This could be as a preferred option or due to a lack of space. The lack of space in cemeteries in the UK is currently being highlighted and this may bring this procedure into the mindset of cemetery management in the years to come.

An awareness of the potential requests or benefits of this practice should be kept in mind.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The current process of the death registration and a response documental trail detailing the date, place and method used is vital. A strict paper trail, detailing the pathway of the body to its final disposition, if monitored appropriately should aid the prevention of any abuse of the deceased.

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I think initially that this would make sense. As new methods, there may be elements of unforeseen difficulties and this proposed process would allow for separate and specific oversight. Presumably this could be reviewed in time, if and when the new methods become accepted and common practice.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

This is very important in ensuring that any new entrants to the provision of any funerary method have appropriate oversight and clarity on expected good practice. There need to be strong safeguards in place to prevent any possible actions which would be in contrast to high standards of care and dignity of the deceased.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

I believe Licencing would add an additional level of safeguarding and so would be in favour of this option.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Each of these stated principles is valid and should always be at the core of any decision making and legislation. I would reverse the preference if the numbering is priority ordered as from a funeral directors perspective the care and dignity of the deceased should always be the number 1 priority.

Please share your views below:

Not specifically a principle, but I would like there to be measures to prevent the potential of mass body disposal. All deceased should at least be treated individually as is currently the case, unless in extreme circumstances such as a mother and baby who die at the same time.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Any inappropriate practice involving actions which may have a detrimental effect on the deceased and or the bereaved should be dealt with firmly.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

I do not feel that (1) is sufficient enough to be a strong deterrent.

I would therefore prefer the implementation of (2) to see the Government given the power to create new offences.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The death pathway and document trail is all important to ensure good practice and every stage must be carried out by appropriate and qualified persons.

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

I think this section gives a good coverage of a wide variety of matters to be included in detailed regulation.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes. Appropriate trialling of new methods would always be enlightening for all parties concerned. My understanding is that this has already been the case in this country with Alkaline Hydrolysis from which there was a great deal learned by various interested parties. In my opinion there is no logical reason not to include the ability to make provision for approved trials.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

I agree with part (1) but regarding part (2) If regulation is introduced for all new funerary methods, then anyone procuring or taking part in a new method must be obliged to ensure that they are aware of all the legal requirements before taking such an action. I'm not sure that being naive is a good enough excuse.

How long does a new funerary method need to be in existence before it is simply a funerary method? Perhaps these offences could be slightly more lenient only in the very early stages.

If by taking part it is assumed that the party is directly involved in the provision of the method then, they should be treated in the same way as if procuring the method.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

I refer to my response above to Q14 part 1.

Please share your views below:

I cannot imagine that anyone would become involved in the provision of a new funerary method without first making all appropriate investigations into good and appropriate practice and legal requirements. And if they were to act without proper due diligence, then they should be deemed to be at fault.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Although I also feel that the fine for carrying out a cremation except in accordance with the cremation legislation is way too lenient.

Please share your views below:

I would think imprisonment would be harsh unless there is clear intent break any existing laws and with full knowledge of the consequences.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

I do not have specific evidence or data, but following many discussions with clients in recent years, there is an awareness and great interest in alternatives to traditional burial and cremation. I subsequently feel that in the interests of choice for the public and provided any method is able to retain the care and dignity required by our society that proposed methods should be processed with these factors in mind.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

It may be advantageous to groups with an environmental interest rather than any religious or ethnic groups. Although as I stated in Q2, with the ever increasing diversity of the British population, there may be an increased desire to introduce new funerary methods into the UK for cultural reasons.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

None

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRWH-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-29 11:57:22

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

The Cremation Society of Great Britain

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

We are not aware of any other significant developments

Please share your views below:

We are not aware of any other potential new funerary methods.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

For the sake of certainty and clarity for bereaved people, and transparency of operators of new funerary methods, death registration should provide the same safeguards and requirements as are required for burial and cremation. This should include the requirement to record which funerary method is used, to ensure accurate recording of statistics around the uptake of new funerary methods to inform future planning.

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

We agree that new funerary methods should be defined and regulated separately from existing funerary methods. This is particularly important given the ambiguous marketing used to promote alkaline hydrolysis as 'water cremation' – when the process is fundamentally different to cremation. Given the likely difference in processes between those new funerary methods already known, and those that may be developed in the future, it is important for there to be clear and unambiguous regulation applied to each, for the sake of those operating those new methods and those who may choose it as an alternative funerary method.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

We agree. This would ensure flexibility for the Government to consider and regulate new funerary methods as they emerge – which in turn provides informed and regulated choice for members of the public.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Our view is that sufficient safeguards and regulation of new funerary methods should be provided through secondary legislation. Licensing new funerary methods without a similar licensing scheme for burial and cremation would result in an unequal basis upon which funerary methods are governed.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

As these fundamental principles are unlikely to change in the future, we agree that these principles should be expressly included in primary legislation. This will not put new funerary methods on an unequal footing with existing methods as, given their longevity, current primary and secondary legislation already cover these principles with burial and cremation. We appreciate the difficulty in defining these principles, given their subjective nature, but there ought to be at least legislative parameters/indicative tests for each included. As far as the 'protection of the environment' is concerned, it is important that this is tested by independent research and that the environmental footprint is measured on the entirety of any given process/new funerary method, and not simply the emissions which represent only one element of the process.

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

We agree with the inclusion of these offences in primary legislation.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Given this is a framework for new funerary methods in the future, in addition to those which are already proposed, we agree that Government should have power to create new offences in secondary legislation. This will ensure flexibility to cover new methods and their application, that may be developed in the future.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

We agree that detailed regulation should include those areas covered in paragraphs 6.85 to 6.119. This is of particular importance given the developing nature of new funerary methods, both those already known and those that may be developed in the future.

Please share your views below:

Nothing to add

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

We agree that regulations should cover the use of trials in the development of new funerary methods to ensure the safety of the public and those undertaking the trials, as well as protecting the dignity of the deceased.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

We agree that prohibiting the use of unregulated new funerary methods would present a clear position for those introducing new methods, and members of the public who may seek an alternative funerary method.

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

We agree on the basis that 'taking part' will be clearly defined in the regulation and that any statutory forms will make the nature and consequence of the offences very clear.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

We agree

Please share your views below:

Given the permanence of carrying out a new method of disposing of a body and the highly sensitive but obvious nature of the exercise, we would consider it appropriate that a person could be guilty if they carry out a new funerary method without knowing or being reckless. It is difficult to envisage where someone might carry out a new funerary method without giving it more than passing consideration.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

We agree there should be the option of a period of imprisonment but 'taking part' would need clear definition.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

No comment

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRW6-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-29 13:52:38

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

bracknell forest council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

n/a

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

no

Please share your views below:

no

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

I would lean towards there being regulations without the need for separate licenses, but I am not especially bothered either way.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

no other principles

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Option 2) would be my preference

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

i agree with this suggestion

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

no opinion

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

no opinion

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRWQ-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-29 17:19:32

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:
Thomas Glyn Watkin

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:
Not Applicable

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:
[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:
[REDACTED]

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No.

Please share your views below:

No.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I strongly agree with this proposal, principally for the reasons stated in paragraphs 5.50 to 5.52, and also for the reasons given in 5.53 to 5.55.

Consultation Question 5.

No

Please share your views below:

If the approach proposed in 5.69 were adopted, I would prefer to see primary legislation give a power to recognize new funerary methods, but impose a duty to regulate the method prior to its coming into use, with a power to amend such regulations thereafter.

However, I do not favour the approach of proceeding by the grant of subordinate law-making powers to government on this issue. I do not agree that the question of whether a new funerary method should be recognized should be left to the executive. 5.69 recognizes the need for clear definition of each new method on an individual basis. To my mind, such definition therefore requires the level of scrutiny with opportunity for amendment that primary law-making affords. The sensitive religious and cultural issues likely to attend the proposed introduction of new funerary methods merit greater involvement of elected representatives in Parliament than by their simply approving or rejecting a statutory instrument.

Were the approach advocated in 5.69 to be adopted, I would expect the instrument containing the subordinate legislation to be subject at the very least to the affirmative resolution procedure in both Houses of Parliament. My preference would be to see an enhanced affirmative procedure used, with a duty to publish the instrument in draft prior to it being formally laid, with an opportunity for members to submit amendments to the draft and with a duty on government to respond in writing to each proposed amendment when laying the final instrument for approval in each house.

I would not expect all subsequent changes to the regulations to be subject to an enhanced resolution procedure.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Uncertain.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

If new funerary methods are to be recognized and regulated through subordinate legislation, I would agree that the Government should have regard or due regard to (1) and (2) above. I also agree that requiring regard to be had to (3) above could pose problems.

The use of subordinate legislation as the legislative vehicle to introduce new funerary methods means that the legislative provisions made will be open to challenge before the courts for failure to have regard to these three elements. In my view, this is undesirable, particularly but not exclusively in relation to (3), as it would mean that whether sufficient regard had been had would be a matter of judicial decision rather than being the decision of elected law-makers following full debate with a possibility of amendment. This difficulty confirms my preference for the use of primary rather than secondary law-making with regard to recognition and regulation, albeit details of an administrative nature could safely be left to subordinate legislation.

I note (paragraph 6.87) that it was in the course of debate in Parliament in 1901 that the 'radius clause' regarding crematoria was introduced by way of a back-bench amendment from Lees Knowles MP, which amendment was accepted by the government. This again reinforces my preference for full scrutiny of the legislative proposals with opportunity for amendment.

Please share your views below:

Possibly
respect for individual choice with regard the disposal of one's remains;
the consequences of employing an irreversible method of disposal (if not covered by public safety), and in particular in disposing of the remains of unidentified persons.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

(1) Yes.

(2) Noting the criticism of the use of powers to create criminal offences referred to in paragraph 6.68, I would again therefore prefer to see these matters dealt with on the face of an Act and not left to secondary legislation. The use of primary legislation to introduce and regulate new funerary methods would avoid the problems noted in paragraph 6.69 with regard to determining possible future criminal offences.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

No

Please share your views below:

I think the breadth of the power required militates against its being suitable legislative vehicle.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

I think provision for approved trials should be made.

I think that it should be made in primary legislation, setting out what regulations for such trials would be required to cover. Such regulations should be subject to the affirmative resolution procedure in both Houses.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

This perhaps begs the question of what constitutes a 'new' funerary method. I am thinking of a funerary method already in use by a religious or other group in another country, which members of the group would wish to continue using when in the UK. Admittedly, this is more likely to involve a variation of a method such as burial, cremation or burial at sea, but might not do so. Should there be some residual, discretionary power given to permit individual instances of a 'foreign' funerary method in such circumstances.

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Subject to the comment in response to Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

I think a no fault element should be considered where the person carrying out the method does so for gain, or holds themselves out as having a professional expertise in the area.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Certainly not for a first offence, unless an aggravating element, such as a danger to human life or public safety, was involved.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Paragraph 6.27 states that "it would not be appropriate to require new funerary methods to be more sustainable than burial or cremation". Paragraphs 1.27 - 1.32 set out the position with regard to Welsh Devolutiion and Funerary Law.

Welsh Ministers are listed as a public body with duties regarding sustainable development and the well-being goals under the Well-Being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015. Their position therefore with regard to exercising functions in relation to new funerary methods and sustainability will differ from that of UK Ministers of the Crown. This may become of particular relevance if the recognition and regulation of new funerary methods is a matter for subordinate law-making by the Welsh Government rather than primary law-making by the Senedd.

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRW2-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-08-31 17:22:38

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Law and Polity committee of the Methodist Church

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

N/a

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

No

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The proposed new funerary methods are considerably different from cremation that it would not be helpful to try shoehorning them in with the legislation that governs cremation.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

This would be a good idea. It might be a good idea for both the premises and the person in charge of them to be licensed, as is required for premises which sell alcohol.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

All these principles should be in mind. The environment, public health and public safety will already be protected to some extent by existing legislation. The traditions connected with the disposal of bodies make such events particularly sensitive. If new funerary methods are to become acceptable it will be necessary to ensure that human dignity is preserved. This will also be very helpful in providing pastoral support to the friends and family of the deceased.

Please share your views below:

no additional comment

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The Methodist Church has no particular expertise to comment on the need for particular sanctions, but it does recognise the need to discourage the adoption of any practice which could cause distress to the friends and family of the deceased.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

The Methodist Church has no particular expertise to comment on the need for particular sanctions, but it does recognise the need to discourage the adoption of any practice which could cause distress to the friends and family of the deceased.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

We are not in a position to add anything further.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

This would be a good idea. If a new funerary method is to be adopted it should be shown, by properly supervised trials, to be effective and acceptable.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

If a novel funerary method were to be ineffective it would cause considerable distress to others. It should be clear that a new funerary method may not be adopted until it has been approved and regulated.

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

We can see no need to introduce an offence of absolute liability to prevent unregulated use of a new funerary method.

Yes

Please share your views below:

This should address any problem caused by the use of an unregulated funerary method.

Please share your views below:

Recklessness as to whether the funerary method is regulated should be sufficient. We do not see the need for an offence of absolute liability.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

A fine of £1,000, which would be reduced if a plea of guilty is entered, might not be sufficient to discourage the use of an unregulated funerary method. The operators of a limited company might risk the unregulated use of a new funerary method if the maximum punishment would be a £1,000 fine for the company.

Please share your views below:

The potential for causing distress is such that the courts must be in a position to impose a period of imprisonment if that is considered necessary in that particular case. We bear in mind that an unregulated funerary method might be ineffective, or cause a risk to public health or the environment.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

We do not have any data or evidenced based views to put forward.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

We do not have any data or evidenced based views to put forward.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

We do not have any data or evidenced based views to put forward.

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRW7-P

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-01 11:14:15

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

London Borough of Lambeth

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

N/A

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

This is agreed by Lambeth who are keen to explore other options in particular resomation or body composting.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No.

Please share your views below:

There has been some conversations about open air cremation or pyres.

We are aware there are some private US crematoria that offer this but aware of emissions being a concern.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I feel they should follow similar guidelines - composting similar to burial and alkaline cremation similar to flame cremation.

Proposed statutory papers should also be similar for ease and recognition across the industry.

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Yes, we believe all premises for all deceased disposal should be licensed and accredited.

Training should also be formalised and centralised if possible.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes, all of the above.

For 3 - our organisation feels very strongly there should be a review of all death related regulations of lack of. We are concerned that human dignity is not always possible due to lengthy times between death and a funeral - which can be caused by a myriad of reasons.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 10.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Yes, this should be regulated at all levels.

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

We would need to consider if rules for remains from alkaline cremation remains differ from flame.

Clarity on objections - which may be more frequent for new methods from other family members.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

N/A - no joined view from LBL.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

N/A - no joined view from LBL.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

N/A - no joined view from LBL.

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GR48-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-01 15:16:22

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Not Aware.

Please share your views below:

Yes, aware of other potential new funerary methods, particularly those involving the cryogenic process which along with others may not be suitable for use in the UK.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Certification for the disposal of human remains by any new funerary method should be issued by a certified Registrar, and subject to amended legislation which allows for the new funerary method to be implemented.

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

All premises designated as places for new funerary methods to be undertaken should be subject to licensing, planning permission or change of use regulations. All operators of such premises should also be subject to licensing and regulation.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

When considering legislation regarding new funerary methods the Government must take into consideration the following:

1. The impact of any new funerary method on the environment.
2. The importance regarding public health and safety, particularly the siting of any new premises required to undertake each new funerary method. How close will they be to residential properties in urban areas and very large cities?
3. Preservation of human dignity should be considered in all cases. In every case the disposal of the deceased person should be an individual process for aquamation, with only one body in each vessel at any one time. The same individual process should also be applied in human composting.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

- (1) As above. Any fine should be substantial, and any term of imprisonment should be without appeal.
- (2) As above. Any fine should be substantial, and any term of imprisonment should be without appeal.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

- (1) Above. Legislation should allow for any fine to be in excess of £1,000.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes, the ability to make provision for approved trials of new funerary methods should be included in regulations.

Prior to any new funerary method being in general use, extensive approved trials should be undertaken to ensure the process is fit for purpose and does not have a detrimental impact on the environment due to the chemicals used in the process.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Agree that the maximum penalty should be more severe, and most definitely in excess of £1,000.

Please share your views below:

Yes, a period of imprisonment should be mandatory.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

New funerary methods should be an alternative choice from usual cremation and burial methods, and not compulsory.

The introduction of new funerary methods will, of course, involve initial costs for setting up the processes. It is currently difficult to predict what the costs of any individual new funerary method might be, and bearing in mind the financial burden placed on some families when arranging cremations and burials (particularly if the death is unexpected) a new form of burial and cremation is likely to be more attractive if it is more cost effective and affordable than the current charges of crematoria and funeral directors.

The direct cremation now offered is currently more affordable. However, the personal experience of friends after choosing this method has not been favourable, with the personnel collecting the deceased not being respectful by saying "we've come to collect your dad", chewing gum and wearing inappropriate clothing (jeans and tee shirts) and the bereaved not being allowed to attend the event. This is an area of current cremation that also needs looking into.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

It should not be permitted for any unidentified bodies or remains (including newly discovered historic remains) to be disposed of by using any irreversible new funerary method which destroys all traces of DNA.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRFD-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-01 20:51:20

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Not applicable.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Not confidential.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

2.29 Yes, I agree.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

2.87 No, I'm not aware of any other significant developments within the processes mentioned in paragraphs 2.39 to 2.85 of this Consultation Paper, but I am very worried about these processes.

What if the water cremation process doesn't completely work/goes slightly wrong, so that some tissue does enter the wastewater treatment system?

This could make the jobs of sewage treatment plant workers, who already have unpleasant jobs, much, much worse!

For human composting, Recompose could result in a larger volume of human remains than conventional burial. Precision Organic's method would result in the remains of many unrelated people being mixed.

Please share your views below:

2.88 No, I'm not aware of any other potential new funerary methods, other than those mentioned in paragraphs 2.39 to 2.85 of this Consultation Paper. You're quite right that exposure isn't generally regarded as socially acceptable in most Western societies and raises "serious public health and human dignity concerns".

Something similar, but even worse, could be said of cannibalism. Although some cultures have practised it, it's even less socially acceptable than exposure, and raises even more "serious public health and human dignity concerns".

Water cremation, especially if it even slightly went wrong, could lead to cannibalism by mistake.

If tiny bits of flesh are in the water, I also worry about transmission of prions and therefore prion diseases.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

3.68 Yes, I agree.

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

5.56 I very strongly agree that new funerary methods should be defined and regulated separately from existing funerary methods (rather than, for example, being included in the definition of cremation). This is firstly because some regulations would need to be specific to a particular funerary method, even though other regulations could be the same as for burial or cremation. It's secondly because including other methods within the definition of cremation would be extremely confusing for ordinary people. For example, if someone had specified they wanted to be cremated, and human composting were used on them instead, this may have been totally against their wishes.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

5.70 Yes, I agree, but I think very great care needs to be taken before approving a new funerary method, and it shouldn't necessarily be approved. These are the bodies of human beings, and deserve great respect.

If it is approved, there certainly should be regulations setting out how it should be carried out. However, I suspect the authorities wouldn't necessarily find out if these regulations weren't followed...

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

5.84 Distinguishing between the regulation of burial and cremation on the one hand and new funerary methods on the other is necessary, because new funerary methods are more complicated. If a provider is deterred by a licence, they shouldn't be offering a new funerary method, because their attitude to it is much too casual.

(1) Licences should be issued and administered by either a government department or a regulating body. Local authorities shouldn't be burdened with this, as it's very specialized, and they're already struggling, due to severe funding cuts.

(2) Only existing crematorium operators should be allowed to apply, and they should be required to pass an exam, demonstrating that they clearly understand how to perform the new funerary method. They should pay a fee to cover all costs.

(3) The licence should authorise only the activities of the person to whom the licence is issued. Otherwise, if it authorised others, for example their employees, those people would have no incentive to follow the rules, as they wouldn't be at risk of losing their licence. Even if they lost their job, they could go and work for someone else.

(4) A licence should have to be renewed every year, perhaps by inspection of how they were performing the new funerary method.

(5) Conditions should certainly be imposed, to ensure that the licence holder was following the regulations for the environment, public health and safety, and human dignity.

(6) If the holder completes further training, their licence could be amended. I don't know under what circumstances a licence could be transferred. It's vital that licences can be suspended or revoked, if the holder doesn't follow the regulations.

(7) It should be a criminal offence to operate without a licence.

A licensing system would definitely increase public trust in the use of new funerary methods. Once the public know what's involved in a new funerary method, they may understand that more involvement of the operator in it leads to more potential for abuse or disrespect. Therefore, public trust would be vital.

A powerful argument against dealing with new funerary methods within existing systems of environmental regulation is that human remains aren't like ordinary types of waste. If they go into the environment this is far more significant. It's entirely appropriate that special regulations should apply to them.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

6.51 Yes, primary legislation should expressly require the Government to have regard to all three of these principles. For example, flushing human remains into a public sewer along with urine and excrement violates human dignity.

Please share your views below:

6.52 The Government should have regard to human taboos, for example, the taboo against cannibalism. They should also have regard to the views of different religions, for example, Judaism prohibits grave reuse.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

6.72 (1) I strongly believe that it should be a criminal offence. However, it's a very serious act. The current prison sentence limit in the Magistrates Courts is 12 months. Therefore, a limit of up to two years' imprisonment is more appropriate. A fine, even an unlimited one, isn't suitable, as some people will be willing to pay it, in order to get what they want.

(2) This should definitely be a criminal offence. I agree that a limit of up to five years' imprisonment is reasonable. However, I don't agree with a fine as an alternative. If they're trying to cover up an offence, people will just think this is a price worth paying.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

6.73 (1) I initially thought that primary legislation should provide that it is a criminal offence to carry out, procure or take part in regulated new funerary methods in contravention of legislation or other detailed regulation. However, I'm persuaded by the argument in 6.66 and 6.67 that we don't know enough about them yet to work out maximum penalties. (Although inadequate warning signs as to the presence of potentially harmful chemicals in sites carrying out the new funerary method, may be very serious, as strong alkaline chemicals may cause workers and members of the public to lose limbs.) A fine of £1000 is insignificant!

Even an unlimited fine isn't suitable, as unfortunately, some companies may just see this as 'the cost of doing business'. They could rely on the fact that they wouldn't be caught or successfully convicted in many cases, and would add the fines when they were both caught and convicted to their operating costs.

(2) There is a "compelling justification" why the Government should be given the power to create new offences in secondary legislation of carrying out, procuring or taking part in regulated new funerary methods in contravention of legislation or other detailed regulation.

I also agree that any secondary legislation made under this power should be subject to the affirmative resolution procedure, to ensure Parliamentary scrutiny.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

6.81 (1) Yes, I totally agree that primary legislation should require that the use of a new funerary method on the body of a deceased person must be registered.

(2) I concur that primary legislation should also stipulate that regulations made about specific new methods must set out how and by whom this registration must be carried out.

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

6.120 Yes, I agree strongly that the power to make detailed regulation about new funerary methods should be broad enough to encompass the matters set out at paragraphs 6.85 to 6.119 of this Consultation Paper.

Please share your views below:

6.121 In Québec, bodies that have a probable diagnosis of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease or any other prion disease, active tuberculosis or any of the diseases and infections listed in Schedule I cannot be subject to alkaline hydrolysis cremation.

This prohibition suggests that there is indeed a risk of prions or bacteria getting into the water supply.

It seems that liquid human remains are classified as 'trade effluent', which violates human dignity.

There is a fundamental difference between cremation and alkaline hydrolysis. This is that usually with cremation solid particles aren't being breathed in. However, with alkaline hydrolysis, they may be drunk with the water.

The first showcase alkaline hydrolysis operators may manage to operate it perfectly, but there's no guarantee that subsequent operators would. Different commercial operators would have a range of skills and conscientiousness, but it would only take one incompetent operator to have appalling consequences for drinking water.

Alkaline hydrolysis is inherently more complicated than cremation, because chemicals need to be bought and used in the appropriate concentrations. If,

for example, an operator didn't have quite enough of a particular chemical, they might proceed anyway.

If alkaline hydrolysis is to be allowed, the resulting liquid should be poured onto woodland, not into the water supply or onto fields growing food.

If alkaline hydrolysis impacts water supplies, it's definitely not at all environmentally friendly. This would destroy its selling point, as it seems to be intensively marketed as being 'greener'.

For human composting, I strongly support the Colorado restrictions on the use of the soil produced; it may not be sold or used by businesses to grow food for human consumption and the soil from more than one deceased person may not be combined without consent. I don't think it should be used to grow food to be eaten by animals either.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

6.126 Any person requesting a trial should be required to perform many simulations before they're allowed to use a real human body. Any trial shouldn't be profitable for the organiser. Trials should be limited, so that they aren't a backdoor way of performing unregulated new funerary methods.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

7.14 I absolutely agree that primary legislation should explicitly prohibit the use of a new funerary method which hasn't been regulated.

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

7.45 (1) I fully accept that it should be a criminal offence to procure or take part in the use of a new funerary method which isn't regulated.

(2) It's possible that an employer may not tell their employees what they're really doing, and an employee may not try to find out. Nevertheless, I still agree that (a) and (b) should be true for the employees to be guilty.

Yes

Please share your views below:

7.46 (1) I absolutely agree that it should be a criminal offence to carry out a new funerary method which isn't regulated.

(2) Even in the case where an employee doesn't know, and doesn't try to find out, what they're actually doing, to be guilty they must know that they're carrying out a new funerary method.

Please share your views below:

7.47 I generally think that (1) should apply. A reason that would justify having no fault element for this part of the offence, as in (2), would be that, where an employee doesn't know what they're really doing, that employee would be motivated to find out.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

7.48 Yes, I agree that the maximum penalty for using an unregulated new funerary method should be more severe than for contravening cremation legislation. However, the maximum penalty for both shouldn't be £1000! Nowadays, an appropriate maximum penalty would be £10,000.

Please share your views below:

7.49 Of course, the maximum penalty should include a period of imprisonment. Otherwise, some people, or some companies, would ignore the law. Even an unlimited fine isn't suitable, as unfortunately, some companies may just see this as 'the cost of doing business'. They could rely on the fact that they wouldn't be caught or successfully convicted in many cases, and would add the fines when they were both caught and convicted to their operating costs.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

8.9 I don't think there would be substantial economic impacts.

The Audit of London Burial Provision (2011) assumes that burials either have to be in one of the London Boroughs, or on existing London Borough provision outside Greater London. Yet London is surrounded by Green Belt, on which it is lawful to have cemeteries, and local authorities could obtain these.

The Audit does state: 'Future audits of burial provision in London should extend scrutiny to... provision just outside the edge of the Greater London boundary.'

There also urgently need to be regulations so that the first burials in grave plots are lower down, to allow space for further family burials above them, without needing to disturb them.

The soil from human composting may take up more space than traditional burials do.

The social impacts would be very negative, if there were any accidents with alkaline hydrolysis or human composting.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

8.16 I don't have evidence or data to suggest that any of these provisional proposals could result in advantages or disadvantages to certain groups.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

8.18 I don't have any data or evidence-based views on the likely impacts of the provisional proposals in this Consultation Paper that are specific to Wales.

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRFU-3

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-02 10:57:18

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

Professor Douglas J. Davies

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Durham University,
Centre for Death and Life Studies

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Not confidential

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Regarding 2.56 /57 Fully support NOT using cremation language for this hydrolysis process DESPITE widespread American usage.

Regarding 2.58. Electrified cremation burns the body and, I assume, creates 'flames' in the process.

Regarding 2.68

The idea of using of 'soil' from the process as something that might be 'reused in future composting cycles' is reminiscent of popular worries about cremation and some ashes remaining for the next cremation.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

None

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

No further

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Nothing further

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Nothing further

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Yes, additional procedure. To enhance the public's potential loss of trust in erstwhile 'unregulated' domain.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes.

In respect of human dignity.

I addressed this concept in my books:-

The Theology of Death (2008. London: T&T Clark). Pp. 12, 130, 133-34, 157.

Loss of, 54, 126-27.

Mors Britannic, Lifestyle and Death-style in Britain Today. (2015) Oxford University Press.

pp. 10, 98, 128, 309-10, 332, 335, 350, 381.

Please share your views below:

Emphasize the ecological-environmental aspect of the interplay of 'dignity' between the life departed and the whole of nature's interplay.

I applaud 6.14 - 6.19

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

In order to sustain idea of dignity in relation to the State's regulation of death professionals

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Yes to both.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Strongly agree. For all the social trust reasons.

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Regarding 6.87

I think the noise of 'bells' is anachronistic. I know of no extant UK crematorium with the facility for bell ringing, and have asked around on this one. I wrote to you on this for your previous Burial and Cremation consulting survey.

Please share your views below:

regarding 6.87

your phrase 'solemnity and peace ' is good, it parallels use of 'dignity'

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes. I was an invited academic at the first 'test run' of UK Resomation on April 2 2019, and 'wondered' about the status of the event and of my being at it. Having edited The Encyclopedia of Cremation I felt an obligation to be at this innovative event.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Because idiosyncratic individuals or folk having a 'visionary' purpose for the dead could easily be self-motivated to act illegally or in contravention of social mores.

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

For personal reasons explained above I trust and assume that this will not be retrospectively introduced from the time of new legislation.

Prison sentence should be avoided.

Yes

Please share your views below:

With proviso of the above.

Please share your views below:

Legislation must make it clear that Resomation cannot operate ONLY under cremation regulations and certification.

Consultation Question 15.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Unsure about this since I see cremation being AS important as Resomation

Please share your views below:

Not imprisonment as long as a wilful breaking of the known laws occurs, especially where a financial incentive is involved to do it.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Social impact likely to be positive as LEGAL statements frame any company advertisements for hydrolysis etc.

This, again, is a TRUST enhancing factor.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Regarding

8.12- 15. These points are all reasonable, especially the 8.14 cautionary element on burial. The Church in Wales is strong on the burial of cremated remains. I assume that resulting remain of hydrolysis, would be the same. So oo for composting.

I personally think that the use of composting output is fraught with ensuin danger. IN gardens of houses sold on etc.

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRFC-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods

Submitted on 2025-09-02 13:45:13

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

[REDACTED]

Please share your views below:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

[REDACTED]

Please share your views below:

[Redacted]

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

[Redacted]

Please share your views below:

[Redacted]

Consultation Question 5.

[Redacted]

Please share your views below:

[Redacted]

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

[Redacted]

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Please share your views below:

[Redacted]

Consultation Question 8.

[Redacted]

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

[REDACTED]

Consultation Question 10.

[REDACTED]

Please share your views below:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Consultation Question 11.

[REDACTED]

Please share your views below:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Please share your views below:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

[REDACTED]

Please share your views below:

[REDACTED]

Consultation Question 14.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please share your views below:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

[REDACTED]

Please share your views below:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRJM-Y

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-02 14:54:32

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

None

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

None

Please share your views below:

None to add

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

It should be the same for all methods.

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The definition of Cremation derives from the Latin word 'Cremo' meaning to burn. Hydrolis & Composting are different processes so we think that they should be defined and regulated separately.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, due to needing the appropriate safeguards.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Any new funerary methods would definitely need regulation but not sure that we agree with Licensing due to there not being licensing for burials and cremations currently. All funerary methods should have the same rules and regs.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

- 1, Yes this needs to be added for new funerary methods
- 2, Yes, as above
- 3, Yes, if people can't abide by this then they should not be working in this industry

Please share your views below:

Yes, what materials are used for coffins - if applicable
Same for articles of clothing and body wrappings - these should be ecologically sound and made from sustainable materials.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

If this already stands for Burial & Cremation then this should also stand for new funerary methods. It should all be the same.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Current funerary practices and new funerary methods should be the same for registration.

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes there should be trials but we should also learn from other countries who are currently using the two new proposed methods.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, everything should be properly regulated the same as for other funerary methods.

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

1, Yes it should be an offence but not knowing is not a good enough reason to not be prosecuted.

2, No, everyone should make themselves aware of the relevant regulations when they are part of the process. Ignorance is not an excuse.

Yes

Please share your views below:

1, yes as per previous question 14.

2, No as per previous question 14.

Please share your views below:

Yes and no as per question 14 answer. People should be aware of all of the regulations and processes before being part of it.

Consultation Question 15.

No

Please share your views below:

No we don't agree as we think that it should all be the same for all but we feel that the level 3 fine is set too low.

Please share your views below:

Potentially depending on the circumstances and the level of severity.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

None

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRFN-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-02 14:58:48

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:
Stephen White

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:
[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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Telephone number:
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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

I am indifferent to whether it is kept confidential.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

No

Please share your views below:

No. Either (3) or (4) is undesirable particularly if, as I think it should be, the Commission's proposal for legislation to ban new funerary methods until regulated is rejected. Certainly legislation should allow a minister to ban a new method which aims to break down a body but does not succeed in doing so without fail. Therefore (3) and (4) should be replaced by

that aims to break down the body as part of or prior to its final disposition; or

whose purpose is the dissolution of the body as part of or prior to the final disposition of it or its remains; or;

whose purpose is the destruction of the body as part of or prior to its final disposition.

On the matter of terminology it is interesting that the Commission's proposal here uses the term "disposal" despite noting in paras 1.37 and 1.38. that some stakeholders dislike it.

I see no need to use the term "deceased person". It is pleonastic. There are any number of nominalised adjectives we use – the poor, the rich, the famous, the accused, the innocent, the deceased- without the need to add "person" to draw specific attention to the humanity of the person(s) to which they refer.

If it is decided to use the term "deceased person" it should be used as sparingly as possible, perhaps just once in a definition section, viz "deceased"

means “a person who has died” or “a dead person”.

If it is to be used repeatedly “deceased” should be replaced by “dead”. We do talk of “the dead” but not to refer to one person and therefore “dead person” to refer to just one is not pleonastic.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No.

Please share your views below:

No.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

No

Please share your views below:

No. I agree that new legislation should include a power to make regulations about new funerary methods and make unlawful operations that do not comply with them but because I do not think that all new funerary methods should be banned until approved, as the Commission proposes in para 7.14, I do not agree that regulations should extend to “approving them”.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Not necessarily but the legislation should allow, but not require, regulations to be made for licensing both premises and equipment for new funerary methods and their operators.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes to (1) and (2). I am not sure that it would be wise to include 3. It is difficult to envisage that a Government would not have regard to 3 (though governments have not always done so) and the nebulousness of the words, particularly in a multicultural society, might invite litigation.

Please share your views below:

I cannot think of any.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, in both cases but “dishonestly” should be replaced by “knowingly” or “knowing that or being wilfully blind as to whether it is false”. “Dishonesty” as an element of offences has generated changing judicial interpretations at appellate level. Dishonesty or the lack of it when a knowingly false representation

has been made should be taken into consideration at the sentencing stage.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Yes to (1), No to (2).

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes to both if "how" includes when and where.

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

This question seems to presume that unregulated new funerary methods would be banned, which I think they should not be (see my answer to the next question). But if they were to be banned, yes.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

No

Please share your views below:

Definitely not. Such a provision would stifle innovation: making regulations for a new funerary method is most unlikely ever to be high on a Government's agenda. Primary legislation could, however, give the Government power to ban a new funerary method on specified grounds as it emerges.

Although new funerary methods should not be banned unless or until regulated, each use of a method should be registered after the event, as proposed in para 6.81, so the Government can be alerted to and informed of developments. The mechanism for this already exists in regulation 49 of the Births and Deaths Regulations 1987, which is nowhere mentioned in the Consultation Paper, and which, suitably amended if necessary, could be made to apply to new methods.

Consultation Question 14.

No

Please share your views below:

No, see my answer to question 13. But if unregulated new funerary methods were to be banned, yes.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

No, see my answer to question 13. But if unregulated new funerary methods were to be banned, yes.

Please share your views below:

Yes to (1). As to (2) it may be that in respect of a particularly new funerary method it would appropriate to impose strict liability.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, this penalty is too low even for the cremation offences.

Please share your views below:

Yes, it should.

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRFP-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-02 15:34:21

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Information is not confidential

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

To make this more future proof the definition could be that a new funerary method is a scientifically, socially and morally acceptable method of human body disposal that is not currently regulated for.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Not aware of anything other than what is already commonly known.

Please share your views below:

I recall reading something about microwave technology, but have not been able to find it so not sure if that is something that is being considered.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Death registration should be the same regardless of final funerary method.

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Some new methods may be very different to cremation, and therefore would require their own set of regulations, albeit they will share some common features with both burial and cremation.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

This would seem a sensible inclusion.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Yes, licensing of all funerary methods would be a good step forward. It would also be important to include an inspection regime as part of the licensing, with powers for Government to issue notices for improvement where required, and to close facilities should the situation demand. It should also allow for the prevention of the opening of new facilities by people/businesses that have been subject to closure notices previously.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

All funerary methods, including existing methods, should have due regard to the three principles.

Please share your views below:

Protection of bereaved and vulnerable people should also be considered, including good, clear information that does not mislead or obscure facts in any way. People should be able to make an informed choice of funerary method based on a clear understanding of each method.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

These should apply to all funerary methods.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Agree - should apply to all funerary methods.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Experience has shown how important it is that burials, cremations and location of ashes are recorded, especially with the rise in genealogy, and where somebody may have been unable to attend a funeral but wishes to pay their respects at a later date.

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Different funerary methods may require different approaches, depending on the technical complexity and the resultant remains.

Please share your views below:

It is difficult to provide a view on this without knowing what the funerary methods might be. It would be important for relevant professional organisations to be consulted and their views considered before any regulations are set.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes, subject to consultation with relevant sector organisations and strict guidelines, particularly around customer consent.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Subject to the ability to hold properly conducted trials of a new funerary method.

Consultation Question 14.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

It may be difficult to prove that somebody wasn't aware that they were taking part in a new funerary method or that it wasn't regulated. Does this clash with the prevention of lawful burial?

Don't know

Please share your views below:

As above.

Please share your views below:

I find this difficult to understand. I thought that not knowing the law is no excuse for breaking it.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

A suitable maximum penalty could act as a deterrent and prevent an unregulated new funerary method from being used.

Please share your views below:

Potentially, if perhaps more than one offence has been committed.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

NA

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

NA

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

NA

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRF4-2

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-02 17:57:18

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

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What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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What is your email address?

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Not applicable

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Not applicable

Please share your views below:

Not applicable

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Correct it provides the clarity needed.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Agree

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Agree with all three points

Please share your views below:

Greater attention needs to be paid to the environmental impact of current, proposed and future new funerary methods. The bereavement sector makes a significant but under recognised environmental impact, contributing to carbon emissions, mercury pollution, land pressures and biodiversity loss. Demand for greener options are growing reflecting the change in UK adults interested in sustainability.

Here government especially DEFRA is well placed to lead a coherent national approach, embedding the bereavement sector into Net Zero, biodiversity and sustainable land management goals. The policy rationale is in alignment with their objectives and is in line with customer demand.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Agree with both aspects and the government and its various department must be seen to enforce the recommendations without fear or favour, too many negative reports are making the headlines, but little in the form of prompt and punitive actions are taken to give the public the confidence they need within the sector.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Clarity in all communications with transparency giving the public confidence and it will add gravitas to the sector.

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

agree

Please share your views below:

Too ensure clarity of purpose, please ensure actions about to be taken are free from too much technical jargon, making it clear and transparent for those both inside and outside of the sector.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Please do make provision for this to be a living process, the sector must be seen to be embracing progress and whilst operating within the legal frameworks agreed, it should be open to move with the times, new methods, technology, thinking and customer demands.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

100%

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Agree, and please enforce it.

Yes

Please share your views below:

100% agree

Please share your views below:

Ignorance is no defence, provide the clarity and the transparency, there is no excuse, once you make escape routes they will be exploited to the full. Is it wrong, yes - guilty!

Consultation Question 15.

No

Please share your views below:

£1000 is petty cash and not a deterrent, if it was £10,000 there would be a different thought process.

Please share your views below:

Depending on the level of the offence and if it is a repeat then prison should be considered, however the prison option carries little fear for those who break the law. Public / community service of no less than 200 hours and a criminal record should be a minimum.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

The UK bereavement sector is bereft of reliable and credible clean data that can provide a meaningful platform from which to respond positively to the request.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

As per previous response it is hard to provide the data or evidence.

With regards to certain groups being subject to advantage or disadvantage the 2010 act provides enough safety for all.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

N/A

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRF8-6

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-03 09:17:16

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

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What is the name of your organisation?

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Oakfield Wood Wrabness

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Paragraph 2.50 to 2.58 sums this up perfectly

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

No

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The registration process is actually quite simple at the moment and we currently send the 'green form' to the relevant registrar. Adding an additional form ref number would be the simply route to additional method paperwork.

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

We agree with being defined separately, but not sure if it needs to be regulated differently.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Would depend on the level of 'red tape' and costs. There is already significant costs involved in A.H. for infrastructure and machinery. Further costs could be a negative.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Most definitely.

Please share your views below:

Protection of the environment could include re purposing the effluent from the A.H. process on hedgerows and non fruit trees.

Rich in nutrients this could be utilised in these areas, but care must be taken that it is not used where it can re enter the water course or food chain.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRF3-1

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-03 10:04:19

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

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What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

South Kesteven District Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

No

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

This will stop confusion for those registering deaths

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Yes but we need further clarity on how this would look and fees and charges would need to cover costs.

It would need to clarify who would take the lead and how many different agencies would be involved

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

No

Please share your views below:

We do not believe the scale of the fines or the limited prison sentences are enough to deter offenders

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

We agree with proposal two as we feel the fines in proposal one are too low and not a deterrent

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Would a third party be bought in to run a facility where there was consideration of closing a premises.

We think there should be a radius clause and at the moment it is difficult for us to be more specific as the detail is lacking in terms of potential odour/noise from the operation of the facility.

6.91 Yes we agree but any fees will need to cover the cost of whoever is going to be responsible for checking compliance

6.95 - 6.101 In terms of inspections if it sits with the SOS we would need clarity where there may crossover with local authorities if for instance the premises required a permit, who would take the lead in inspections and how would communication work

6.106 - All procedures need to align with current processes for cremation/burial

6.110 - There needs to be a screening, testing and decontamination process for the remains

We would want to ensure that any decision making process doesn't cause issues for LA s when carrying out public health funerals

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

We agree this system should be trialed before being rolled out

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

2

Consultation Question 15.

No

Please share your views below:

The offence should be equally responsible whether for cremation or the new methods and the fines suggested are not severe enough to deter people from misusing the process

Please share your views below:

A period of imprisonment should be an option when the circumstances warrant it

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Economic impacts are difficult to assess until we know who would be regulating/inspecting

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

N/A

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRFQ-Y

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-03 12:38:08

About you

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Enter your name:

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What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Liverpool City Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

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Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

N/A

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

None

Please share your views below:

A process using cryogenic methods to reduce the body to small parts which are then freeze dried to remove water. this method has not been proven however as technology progresses it the proof of concept may be achieved.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Licensing is essential for any new funerary methods, and this should include proof of concept from independent external and industry based professional. Consideration should also be referenced within the licensing process with regards to impact to the environment for example ground water, air quality, energy usage, geographic position.
Licensing should also consider the experience and ability of the applicant to deliver the funerary service and the inspection process to ensure compliance.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Agree with all of the above.

Preservation of dignity must include storage of the deceased during the period of when the deceased is collected from mortuary (storage managed under HTA legislation PFE2) to when funeral takes place (no legislation). The preservation of dignity should also consider bodies stored in crematoria prior to cremation.

Please share your views below:

I support the proposals made in the consultation paper.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Point 1 is especially important, however, safeguards need to be in place to ensure that decisions made during a stressful and difficult period of their lives are made with the requisite support from funeral professionals.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

I agree with option 2

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Independent trials and assessment of new funerary methods is essential to ensure that manufacturer claims are substantiated. Manufacturers and supplier data regarding their product(s) should be vetted by independent professional and should be financed by the manufacturers.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Option 1

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

I think that an option of imprisonment should be available for offenders who are reckless or make multiple breaches of legislation.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

There are a number of LA's who have limited burial space however the burial allocation needs to be considered regionally to recognise, traditional values, religious impacts and within the local plan. Acceptance and introduction of new funerary methods will need to be managed and controlled at aregional level with the backing of legislation

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

N/A

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRFF-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-03 16:39:14

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

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What is the name of your organisation?

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Personal response

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

[REDACTED]

In the U.S. alkaline hydrolysis is also known as "water cremation" or "green cremation". I would suggest for item 2 adding the word 'flame based' to cremation to establish a difference between alkaline hydrolysis (water cremation) and flame based cremation.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

In California, the Cemetery & Funeral Bureau which is the regulatory body, has separate regulations for an AH facility and unit vs FBC.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

In conjunction with those who are experts in the field of AH or human composting.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

If funeral homes and crematoria are required to have licensing, any other new funerary method should as well.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes. Government should provide legislation in conjunction with regulatory bodies and those who are experts in the fields of AH and human composting.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

If someone is carrying out a new funerary method that's not regulated, they, in some way, shape or form, know they are breaking the law.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRF9-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-03 16:51:42

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

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What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

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Personal response

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Yes. Licensing is required throughout the disposal process, including funeral directors/companies

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

No

Please share your views below:

Increase the fine & prison term & ban them from any position in the death/funeral indus

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Def 2

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

No

Please share your views below:

Don't give the get out clause!

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

No

Please share your views below:

Higher

Please share your views below:

Yes

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRFJ-R

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-03 22:07:45

About you

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What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Not applicable

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Not applicable

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

No

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

No

Please share your views below:

The approval of new funerary methods should be subject to full democratic control by way of primary legislation and not secondary legislation. This is because there is a tendency for ministers to ignore considerations of the "yuk factor", the instinctive realisation that a process might be unhygienic, disgusting and injurious to health, damaging to the environment, besides being both degrading and inhuman.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Licensing should be required whether regulation is by way of primary or secondary legislation. This is in order that the practice of new funerary methods can be controlled to ensure that the regulations are fully observed.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes, in particular it would offend the principle of human dignity for soil produced by human composting to be removed from a location such as a crematorium and sold, it should be buried in the cemetery and the location marked by a gravestone. Similarly, the liquid from the alkali treatment should not be disposed of into the waste water drainage system as it constitutes human remains and should remain to soak away in the soil of the cemetery. It offends religious sensitivity and the human dignity for human remains to be treated as human waste.

It is stated in para 2.69 of the consultation paper that prions which are misfolded proteins that can cause disease such as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease may remain after human composting and therefore this method of disposal of human remains should not be allowed unless a way is found to ensure that any infection has been entirely eliminated. It is just not good enough to say that it is unlikely that the remains contain any viable infectious agents.

Please share your views below:

Any specific new funerary methods should be approved by way of primary legislation and subject to full parliamentary scrutiny. There is no obligation on the government to approve new funerary methods which many will instinctively feel are inappropriate and unnecessary. Cremation produces only a small amount of smoke and ash and modern extraction methods should reduce this to a minimum. The new methods are more likely to damage the environment and in particular the idea that their products become drinking water is grossly offensive and repugnant. The "yuk factor" indeed is a very powerful reason for not allowing it.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

I have no objection to this but the principle that the new funerary method should be approved by primary legislation should apply. Some of the finer details can be worked out and be subject to secondary legislation if experience shows it to be necessary or desirable.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

There should be a prohibition on the liquid from alkali hydrolysis entering the waste water system.
As mentioned on para 4.8 on p. 38 this is the situation in NSW Australia.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

No

Please share your views below:

This should be a strict liability offence. It is the responsibility of anyone offering new funerary methods to acquaint themselves with the legislative framework affecting their business. It should not be a defence that they have not bothered to read the legislation.

No

Please share your views below:

No, again this should be a strict liability offence and the lack of knowledge due to the defendant's ignorance of the law relating to the business that he is engaged in cannot be a defence. Otherwise in practice everyone would be able to plead ignorance and get off.

Please share your views below:

(2) As explained above, ignorance should not be a defence to any such offence. It would be like saying I am sorry I did not know there was a yellow line because I did not bother to look, so I am not guilty of parking on a yellow line.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

I agree that in serious cases imprisonment should be available to the court as a possible sentence.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Not known

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Not known

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Not known

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRFY-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-03 23:55:19

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:
Fiona Cunningham

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:
Durham University/Kindly Earth (Collaborative research associate)

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

This is a practical definition.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

As some alkaline hydrolysis systems operate under atmospheric pressure, it may be more accurate to describe the process as 'using water, alkaline chemicals, heat and, in some cases, pressure'.

In addition to the commercial interest in NFMs from existing providers of burial and cremation mentioned in 2.44, NFMs have been receiving increasing support from sector trade bodies in England and Wales. In 2024, the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities updated their constitution to include "other funerary methods", announcing their first prospective NFM provider, the alkaline hydrolysis venture Kindly Earth, as an affiliate member in July 2025.

Since the Commission's summary of the current state-of-play in 4.69-4.77 was written, AH has become available to the public in New Zealand. Christchurch funeral home Bell, Lamb & Trotter began offering AH services in June 2025. In Belgium, a pilot of Resomation is due to begin in September/October 2025, based out of the Antwerp Pontes Crematorium.

Please share your views below:

I am not aware of any other potential new funerary methods. However, to add to the Commission's consideration of exposure as a new funerary method, as detailed in 2.84-2.85, it is worth noting the considerable public interest in human taphonomy (or 'body farm') facilities. While these would not fit the proposed definition of an NFM, given that they exist for research purposes, they nevertheless demonstrate a modern parallel to sky or tree burial, in that some individuals are amenable to their bodies being broken down by exposure/excarnation, and that the process has taken place in a controlled environment which does not pose significant public health or human dignity concerns. It follows therefore that a fully future-proofed framework should be open to the potential legislation of NFMs involving exposure, depending on feasibility of concept and public demand.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

It would be of benefit to the public and professionals in the sector if the registration process and accompanying paperwork was as similar as possible to burial and cremation (while still appropriately delineated to avoid confusion about which method was being used).

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes, provided that regulators are still able to mirror the provisions made for burial and cremation where this is appropriate for the method.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The Commission is correct that the 'duty' to make regulations in the Cremation Act 1902 was introduced after the test case of William Price found cremation to be legal in 1884, and the subsequent establishment of two working crematoria – several steps ahead of the position that AH and NOR find themselves in the UK today. Nonetheless, it should be emphasised that these new funerary methods are far from theoretical; some, particularly AH, have working installations and the necessary environmental permits which would allow them to function were it not for the unclear legal status of NFMs in England and Wales. These facilities are in a position where they are unable to fulfil existing public demand, including individuals who are 'at need', meaning they are presently dying or recently bereaved and attempting to execute personally meaningful funeral wishes. The negative impact on these businesses, but more significantly, on the dignity and wellbeing of the deceased, bereaved and dying, should not be overlooked, particularly given the third strand of the Commission's project, which will consider increasing the weight given to the decisions made by a person about what happens to their body when they die. Given the slow pace of regulation related to death and dying (the recent reform of death certification, for instance, having been put into practice almost two decades after the final report of the Shipman Enquiry, which first identified flaws in the oversight of MCCDs) the Commission should seriously consider whether a duty should apply to NFMs where feasibility and public demand have been sufficiently proven.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Licensing seems to be an appropriate way to handle the more granular detail of different systems and variations in how a NFM is carried out, particularly given the developing nature of the technologies involved, as well the opportunities NFMs offer for new entrants and new types of premises for the funeral industry. While secondary legislation might allow for AH as a process which breaks down a human body using chemicals, water, heat and sometimes pressure, for instance, license conditions could capture the technical specifications of the machine used (eg. specific operating temperature), or the practices necessary to maintain the security and dignity of the deceased on a particular type of premises (eg. a facility close to residential buildings). Capturing technical differences at the level of licensing should help to sensitively and effectively manage incidents similar to the confusion which arose in Ontario in 2019, in which bereavement authorities were concerned that the different operational settings of AH equipment from different manufacturers could make some systems ineffective at degrading prions (see O'Keefe, NCEH, "Alternative disposition services", 2023. pp. 11-12). It would also allow for regulation to adapt as technologies continue to develop, avoiding secondary legislation becoming quickly obsolete.

Given the overall trend towards licensing in the funeral sector in the UK, signalled by the Scottish Government's scheme and the recommendations of the Fuller report, it seems unlikely that licensing would represent a significant deterrent for prospective operators of NFMs. However, it is not clear from the consultation paper what provisions exist to create a robust licensing and inspection infrastructure. Lawmakers could look to the work already done by the Scottish Government on the potential Funeral Director's Licensing Scheme for guidance here, with Ministers acting as the licensing authority, supported by expert input from trade bodies – some of whom are already liaising with prospective NFM providers, as described in my answer to question 2a.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

The consultation paper makes a compelling argument for the significance of these three principles in existing funerary legislation and the public confidence that could be engendered by specifically requiring their consideration. However, there must be greater clarity on the precise meaning of 'human dignity' before this principle is written into primary legislation and wielded by lawmakers.

Michael Rosen (2018) offers a helpful perspective on the origins of 'human dignity' as a concept, demonstrating its enduring theological and philosophical significance as an intrinsic value within all humans distinct from non-human animals, plant life, objects or waste, but also its conceptual malleability. Rosen gives the example of the assisted dying debate as an arena in which respect for individual humans' dignity is credibly deployed on both sides (see para.51-52 of the Vatican's *Dignitas Infinita*, 2019, versus the UK's Campaign for Dignity in Dying or Switzerland's famous *Dignitas* facility). The same can be said for the provision of new funerary methods, where denial of control over the method of your own bodily disposal, best fitting the wishes and values you had in life, can be experienced as an affront to dignity, while at the same time, others may interpret novel methods as 'undignified' based on their perceived divergence from traditional norms or their foregrounding of previously obscured elements of standard bodily disposal processes (eg. cremulation of bones, acceleration of the decomposition process, or the release of liquid parts of the body into sewage networks).

In jurisdictions beyond the UK, particularly the United States, legislation for both new funerary methods mentioned in the consultation paper continue to receive religious opposition on the basis of perceived violations of human dignity (see the Catholic Church's interventions in the New York Assembly bill 1223 (2012, AH), Texas House Bill 773 (2019, AH), California Assembly bill 351 (2022, HC) Indiana House Bills 1044 and 1609 (2025, AH and HC respectively) and more). Creating a simpler route to challenge secondary legislation concerning NFMs, based only on an alleged non-adherence to a poorly defined principle of human dignity, therefore makes additional delays or roadblocks to the introduction of new funerary methods almost inevitable. Of course, a variety of views on the acceptability of different funerary methods should be expected and embraced in a diverse and pluralistic society, but leaving this principle so vague and open-ended for lawmakers and potential opponents seriously risks an unfair imposition of relative, religious or culturally-specific norms on dying and funeral-planning people who strongly desire existing new funerary methods, beyond any limitations which could reasonably be justified in the broader public's interest.

While 6.42 is correct that the preservation of the dignity of the deceased is fundamental to stakeholders in the deathcare sector, the 'kinds' of dignity which manifest as a "universal standard" in funeral law, organisational policy and everyday practice are arguably better defined than is currently captured in the consultation paper. For instance, while the NAFD's Funeral Director Code emphasises the duty to "preserve the dignity of the deceased people in your care at all times" (O3.1), this principle is defined exclusively through indicative behaviours concerning the security, privacy and cleanliness/presentability of the deceased prior to and during the disposal. Indicative behaviours 3.8 to 3.11, available on the NAFD website, describe actions such as the disinfection of mortuary trays between carrying different deceased persons, the covering of intimate areas of the deceased person's body during care and preparation tasks, and the use of head support to ensure the position of the deceased looks comfortable and orderly while in storage. These principles centre the dignity of the deceased, but do not (to use a lighthearted example), prevent a funeral director from playing 'Ding Dong the Witch is Dead' over crematorium speakers during a committal ceremony. Such an action might well be perceived by others as counter to a dignified funeral, but is carried out to honour the deceased's sense of humour or personal idiosyncrasies, with the understanding that a proscriptive approach to what constitutes 'dignity' in the service might unjustly deny their wishes and identity as an individual. A similar definition of dignity can be found in the FBCA's Cremation Code of Practice, in which the restrictions for entrances which are appropriate for the "dignified reception of coffins" pose few aesthetic or culturally-coded limitations, but instead simply prioritise "visibility to the public" – signifying transparency and security of the deceased -- and "clear access (eg. double doors)" – ensuring safe and practical handling.

While these are only industry norms, due to the largely unregulated state of the funeral sector in England and Wales, the legal sources cited in the consultation paper also reflect this limited and practical definition of dignity: Conway references an Australian dispute over burial location (*Calma v Sesar*, 1992), for instance, in which practicality and timeliness of the burial, preventing the deceased from deteriorating excessively ahead of disposal, were prioritised as key elements of respect for the dead ahead of emotional or cultural considerations. Larger-scale and more recent UK examples such as the Human Tissue Act (2004), Coronavirus Act (2020) and the recommendations of the Fuller Inquiry (2025) also relate the dignity of the deceased body to its practical safeguarding and presentability, focusing on the prompt replacement of soiled shrouding (HTA) for example, or the avoidance of taking unjustified photographs of the deceased (Fuller). Dignity is therefore an essential principle in any framework given to lawmakers, but must be clearly limited to issues of security, privacy and cleanliness in order to prevent misuse.

Please share your views below:

I do not have suggestions for any further principles, but would ask the Commission to consider what guidance would be available to the government if any of these principles were found to be in conflict with one another. For example, would it be possible to approve a method which was sufficiently dignified, but protected public health in a manner that was harmful to the environment (eg. destroying pathogens through a carbon intensive process)? It would be helpful to understand whether the principles exist in a hierarchy.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

It is appropriate that this should be a criminal offence, particularly given many NFM's capacity to rapidly destroy a body similar to cremation. It is also appropriate that the offence is given an equivalent penalty to cremation -- I see no reason why the penalty in this case should be more or less severe.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

While I accept the Commission's point laid out in 6.66 that it would be difficult to speculatively create penalties without knowing the content of the regulations, I have significant reservations about leaving the creation of offences to secondary legislation, particularly in the context of such an unusual and emotive topic. I'm concerned that the inflammatory and sensational nature of public discourse around NFMs, as demonstrated by the press coverage of this very consultation, could fuel excessive penalties which discourage adoption by funeral operatives and 'other' NFMs as uniquely sinister or dangerous compared to burial and cremation. Where possible, it seems appropriate that offences related to the misuse of NFMs are roughly equivalent to those which exist in burial and cremation.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

It may be helpful to register details of the remains post-disposal process as well (for example, whether soil from human composting was returned to the family or spread in a specific location).

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

In addition to the possible need for removal of medical devices detailed in 6.105, some NFMs may preserve medical devices and other items on/within the body. While crematoria recycle metal from artificial hip joints which survives the process, for example, medical devices or jewellery may survive the NOR or AH process well enough to be reused, rather than recycled, or in such a condition that the applicant is more likely to want them returned. How to properly monitor and dispose of these items may then require more detailed regulation than currently exists for cremation.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

A provision for approved trials is an excellent idea. While limited studies have previously gone ahead in the UK for NFMs (for instance, to investigate the admissibility of AH's post-process effluent for water company standards), it seems clear that the ambiguous legal status of NFMs in the UK has hampered research which would be valuable to lawmakers, businesses and the public. Better provisions for NFMs to be trialed could be a valuable step in ensuring that detailed regulation and licensing is fit for everyday practice before a method is rolled out to the public.

With this being said, it is worth reiterating the considerable effect that delays to regulation have already had on hopeful providers and service users. It would be unfortunate if trials were imposed in such a way that stifled innovation, excessively denied the public access to a service, and further hampered the progress of existing NFMs. Where there is already ample evidence from international sources that a NFM is not a threat to public health or the environment, and is desired by the public, it may not always be necessary to replicate evidence with a trial.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

I accept the position that not explicitly prohibiting unregulated NFMs would effectively undermine the public trust and clarity afforded by NFM regulation. Given that this would explicitly render existing NFMs illegal, however, I would reiterate my response to question 5 that a duty to regulate (or at least, to explore the possibility of regulation), where a method has been proven feasible and is desired by the public, should be more seriously considered.

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The inclusion of a fault element in this offence helps to avoid draconian punishment for those who are earnestly attempting to deal respectfully with the body of a deceased person.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

I similarly support the inclusion of a fault element in this offence. The provision that a defendant must have knowledge or be reckless in not checking if a method is regulated could help differentiate between the many different types of roles involved in carrying out a new funerary method (eg.

administration, delivery of chemicals, operator, manager), which would allow penalties to remain fair and proportionate. This seems particularly significant given the relative simplicity of operating some NFM machinery (some AH units, for instance, do not require the same continuous monitoring as cremation), and the reliance on casually contracted staff members in some areas of the funeral industry.

Consultation Question 15.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

As stated previously, it is difficult to speculate on the range of harms that might be caused through the unregulated use of funerary methods which are not yet known. I therefore understand why a larger maximum penalty is being proposed, but feel uncomfortable with the potential implication that the use of an unregulated NFM would most likely be more offensive to human dignity than a cremation conducted outside of regulations. There are many ways in which an improper cremation would be far more disrespectful to the dead and harmful to the public than a professionally conducted AH or NOR service which is nevertheless illegal due to the slow pace of regulation. This assumption equates 'newness' or unfamiliarity of methods with harm, offence and criminality, which seems to risk unjust persecution of services which do no material harm to the public, but lie outside current cultural norms. It's possible that this issue would be solved by the maximum penalty in cremation legislation being larger than a £1000 fine, but I accept that this is not within the scope of the NFM project.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

The process of legislating for individual NFMs proposed in the consultation paper, particularly when subject to the affirmative resolution procedure, is likely to increase public interest and conversation around existing NFMs, as evidenced by the spike in press coverage caused by the opening of this consultation. One particularly complex byproduct of a heightened public profile for NFMs is the possibility of distress for dying and funeral planning individuals, as prospective service providers often report a surge in contact from people in imminent need of their services after a period of increased press coverage.

The eventual regulation of NFMs will of course also create a change in market share for disposal services, as the number of deaths per year will not increase, but the provision of bodily disposal will be spread over a more diverse array of options. This could mean a loss in revenue for crematoria and cemeteries -- however, this is unlikely to have a significant impact given the overall embracing of NFMs by local authority services and private businesses in the funeral industry in areas such as the US and Canada.

Over time, regulation of AH and NOR specifically may fuel significant social change in the order and ritual of a standard funeral service. The most emblematic example of this is the impracticality of a single-use coffin. While the acceptance of shrouds in burial grounds and some crematoria is growing (around 40% of crematoria admitted deceased persons in shrouds in 2024, according to Pharos' latest statistics issue), the fact that non-soluble cannot enter AH or NOR machinery would likely engender a more rapid shift away from the purchase of a coffin as a requirement in a funeral service. This could have the effect of bringing the general public into more regular contact with the presence and shape of a deceased person's body (which many experience as more confronting than a coffin, even when fully shrouded), and reduce impulses towards conspicuous consumption. It will also encourage coffin manufacturers to continue to innovate with reusable and low-waste options.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Existing NFM machinery can have restrictions on the height and weight of the deceased, though this is likely to improve in future models as businesses expand, as was seen in cremation.

The provisional licensing proposals are likely to impact new entrants into the funeral sector more significantly than funeral directors or existing crematoria operators, given their familiarity with prior legislation such as environmental regulation, for instance. However, this seems proportionate given the wider benefits of oversight and public trust that licensing would bring.

Individuals with existing funeral plans may be impacted by the eventual regulation of NFMs if they wish to change their disposal preference and find this difficult.

As stated in previous answers, the present delays to the provision of NFMs like AH and NOR, which are likely to be exacerbated by some of the proposals, have a significant effect on dying and funeral planning individuals who do not have the time to wait for their desired method to become regulated, and do not always have the resources to travel abroad to jurisdictions where these methods are available. While legislation of course cannot be made overnight, the considerable distress expressed by these individuals should be remembered when making these kinds of proposals.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRF5-3

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-04 00:05:11

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Thereafter Funeral Services Ltd

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

N/A

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

This is a very fair term to identify the points of discussion

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

No

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

No

Please share your views below:

In these discussions of new funerary methods we are presented with the unique opportunity to define and regulate in line with society, knowledge and language fit for purpose today and for future generations. as wonderful as this would be, in the light of the time any enquiry, discussions and agreement of a new regulation require is entirely detrimental to the ecological and social needs of why we need new funerary methods. For ethical and sustainable purposes we can take lead from those who have new funerary methods already operational. Without compromise Public safety, codes of conduct, standardised operation are all achievable in the existing framework - this is not a linguistic battle, it is social and environmental issue.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Licensing is a tried and tested means of standards, codes and understanding for those operating and managing sites. I have no objection to such means of regulating and managing operations

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

100%

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

With any new system, trials and learnings are key to there solid grounding in public infrastructure

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRF6-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-04 11:04:00

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

The Board of Deputies of British Jews

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

In the Jewish community, the majority of communities conduct burials rather than other forms of disposal for their deceased. New funerary methods are not currently widespread in the Jewish community. Orthodox Jewish practice only permits burial and has a strict ban against cremation. Progressive Jewish communities value pluralism in end-of-life practice and give individuals an option to opt for classic burial, woodland burial, or cremation. There is a growing interest in new funerary methods and other ecological burial options if the following principles are upheld: respect for individual autonomy and ensuring dignity and ritual integrity. In the case that a Jewish community wishes to use approved and regulated new funerary methods, it should follow the same procedures for death registration for ease and clarity.

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

New funerary methods have different procedures and risks associated with them than cremation and other funerary methods that are more well-established. Therefore, it should be defined separately in order to be regulated better and mitigate risks.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Primary and secondary legislation should provide sufficient safeguards to ensure that the use of new funerary methods is entirely voluntary. Any individual or community who wish to make use of new funerary methods should ensure the full preservation of human dignity to the deceased, the family of the deceased, and the burial practitioner using the funerary method. Human dignity is not only about safety and regulation but also about meaningful ritual. Families choosing new methods would still need access to Jewish liturgy and pastoral support. It is critical that no funerary methods should harm individual or public safety, health, and environment in the surroundings.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

The government should be given the power to create new offences in secondary legislation for taking part in regulated new funerary methods in contravention of legislation, as the current suggested maximum penalty of a £1,000 fine is too low. A harsher punishment and offence would prevent individuals with nefarious intentions from exploiting new funerary methods to meddle with the human dignity of deceased individuals.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

To ensure the safe roll-out of new funerary methods which do not risk harming the environment or human dignity, the only funerary methods which should be permitted are ones which have passed all appropriate trials and can be safely regulated.

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

It is irrelevant whether or not a defendant is aware that they are carrying out a new funerary method in order to be found guilty of the offence of carrying out a new funerary method which is not regulated. The main offence remains that they are conducting a potentially harmful practice with consequences for a deceased individual and their family.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

The provisional proposals do not currently disadvantage Jewish people, who are protected under the Equality Act 2010. It is reassuring that the consultation paper paragraphs 8.12 – 8.14, the Law Commission recognises that new funerary methods are only meant to enable more choice for individuals and families who wish to have the choice, but that there will be no changes to current funerary methods. Respect for diverse religious needs must be built into regulation from the outset. The adoption of new funerary methods and any primary or secondary legislation to bring effect to it should not impose a requirement by any community who do not wish to adopt them, especially if it is a community with particular traditional funerary practices. Similar to the consultation on Burial and Cremation, where it was proposed that cremation should not be permitted in relation to unidentified bodies, new funerary methods should also not be permitted in relation to unidentified bodies. This is to prevent breaching the religious preferences of an unidentified person.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRFB-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-04 11:30:07

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

National Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors (SAIF)

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

No requirement for any confidentiality

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Not as far as developments are concerned, but there a number of funeral director members of SAIF who are very interested in the potential of being able to add new alternative forms of disposal for their clients.

Please share your views below:

Our membership are dealing with an ever increasing number of different cultures, and whilst we are not aware of any specific new funerary methods, it would not be a surprise if requests for alternatives, new to the UK, aren't forthcoming. Without being specific, we believe that the Law Commission should be mindful of potential additional methods being requested for cultural reasons when planning for future developments.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

It is vital that the process to register a death and the documentation that follows through to final disposal follows the same pathway as is currently in existence for burial and cremation. Any changes to this we believe would cause complications and could result in errors occurring in the overall death pathway, subsequently adding to the distress of bereaved families.

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

We believe that initially this would make a great deal of sense. Any new funerary methods are likely to require different elements which need oversight. This may also require reviews of policy and/or process as lessons are learned in practice. We do think that the process of legalising new funerary methods needs to be clear and on a reasonable timeframe. There should be a clear and robust consultative scrutiny of the efficacy and ethics of any new funerary methods to become legalised.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Oversight of any practice involving the treatment and care of the deceased is essential in our opinion. There may be a number of new entrants into a market which is new in itself and good practice in these cases will require a form of regulation and inspection. This would need to be in place to ensure the dignity and respect expected of the dead in our society is fulfilled appropriately.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

In general terms we agree and we understand that licensing would give an additional level of oversight and safeguarding. We question whether any additional cost entailed in licensing may cause new initiatives to hesitate before starting up. There may subsequently be large areas of the UK where these new funerary methods do not become an available choice for the public.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Each of these principles should be at the very heart of any decision making when it involves any element of the pathway of deceased persons. From the point of death to the completion of their chosen funerary method.

Please share your views below:

All relevant matters should be covered by the proposed principles, but importance of the dignity and appropriate care of the deceased cannot be emphasised highly enough.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Any offence which ultimately could have an effect on the care of the deceased and/or the bereaved should be treated as a serious offence.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

We feel that the Government should be given the power to create new offences in secondary legislation as stated in (2) above. We have concerns that (1) above does not give sufficient deterrent to any criminal offence in this matter.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The death pathway and document trail is all important to ensure good practice at every stage and must be carried out by appropriate and qualified persons.

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

We feel that paragraphs 6.85 to 6.119 cover a wide area, and whilst it appears appropriate at this time, there may be matters which evolve to create the need for review.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes. Trials have proven valuable in the past, but any trials should still need to be approved and governed by regulation.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

We agree with part (1)

Regarding part (2) If regulation is introduced for new funerary methods, it is each individuals responsibility to ensure that they are aware of their legal obligations.

We believe there would need to be clarity on what the timeframe is for when a new funerary method becomes a fixed funerary method? For example is it still classed as being new 5 or 10 years after introduction to the market?

We question whether there should be a scale of fines or sentences based on the time when the offence occurs?

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please see our response to the question above.

Please share your views below:

Anyone going to the great expense to provide the provision of a new funerary method, should be fully aware of the legalities surrounding their action. Naivety is not an excuse. If any person or persons carry out a new funerary method without due diligence then this in itself could be perceived as being an offence.

Consultation Question 15.

No

Please share your views below:

We feel that the severity of carrying out, procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated should not be classed as being more severe than the offence of carrying out, procuring or taking part in a cremation except in accordance with cremation legislation. If anything it should be less severe based on the potential lack of knowledge regarding new funerary methods compared to the long established cremation legislation. The existing fine does seem very lenient.

Please share your views below:

This potentially should be the case, dependent on whether there is proven intent to break known existing laws.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Whilst we have no data or evidence to support our views, we believe that there would be a good deal of interest in both the provision and use of new funerary methods. This thought is simply based on the large amount of interest expressed within our membership.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

We have no evidence or data to suggest that there would be either advantages or disadvantages of the provisional proposals on any particular groups.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

We are not aware of there being any difference in the impact of the provisional proposals in Wales compared to anywhere else.

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRFG-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods

Submitted on 2025-09-04 12:37:58

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Thames Water Utilities Limited

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Response to Law Commission Consultation

Executive Summary:

Thames Water welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Consultation from the Law Commission on resomation.

We have confined our comments to issues around the potential environmental risks and impacts and the regulation around this (Question 7). We do see a need for a statutory obligation on government in primary legislation to consider the environmental aspects of this potential policy change in any secondary legislation about new funerary methods.

We are concerned that the Consultation does not recognise the potential risks of undermining public trust in potable water supply, nor the potential impact this could have on the wastewater network and effective operation of the secondary market for bioresources (the solids which form a byproduct from the sewage treatment processes, which are typically used on farmland).

If this policy were to be implemented there is a need to ensure that an effective licencing regime is established for operators of water cremation that will ensure there are fully effective safeguards around the safe pre-treatment of the water effluent from the resomation process.

Background:

Water Cremation, also known as alkaline hydrolysis or resomation, is an alternative funeral service to current flame cremations, which are under scrutiny due to the environmental impact of emissions and carbon use. The process uses hot water with the addition of chemicals such as potassium hydroxide, or sodium hydroxide (also known as lye, or caustic soda).

These chemicals are used to break down body fats and tissues, to produce a 'product' that is known to contain high levels of oils and fats, a high organic load, a high ammonia load and detectable levels of metals.

Once complete the residual solid material (e.g. bone) is ground; the ash and is returned to the deceased's family. The remaining liquid is expected to be discharged into the public (foul) sewerage system, for treatment by the water companies through the same process used for all sewage treatment, before then being discharged into the environment.

Our Approach:

Under the provisions of the Water Industry Act 1991 it is an offense to discharge without the consent of the sewerage undertaker and to discharge anything to a sewer which will adversely impact the sewerage network or water recycling centre treatment processes. Therefore, any business that wishes to discharge waste liquids into the sewer from a "trade process" requires the consent of the sewerage undertaker, in this case Thames Water Utilities Ltd.

As with any other proposed discharge, Thames Water will assess the associated risks to its business, regulatory compliance, and operational impact in accordance with the provisions of the Water Industry Act 1991.

Our Position:

Thames Water has concerns relating to the acceptance of resomation waste liquids, in particular the impact this may have on the subsequent reuse / recycling of byproducts of sewage treatment that may contain traces of the resomation process.

The principal concerns are:

- Treated sewage effluent which can be a significant component of many river flows and subsequently abstracted for potable supply. The effluent from resomation, however well-treated, will hence be present in drinking water;
- Possible impact on products from land on which biosolids (sewage sludge) following treatment of resomation effluent might be spread.

For example, any refusal to accept biosolids containing resomation material by farmers could adversely affect our ability to recycle this valuable bioresource. Such refusal might not be initiated by farmers but by "downstream" users, such as commercial crop buyers and supermarkets, in the light of the implicit human nature of the constituent.

From the available analysis of the wastewater, it is likely some pre-treatment by the discharger would be required to meet acceptable levels for discharge to sewer. This would be even more likely at smaller sewage works that discharge to non-estuarine watercourses. To go one step further, some discharges may be refused altogether due to operational capacity or environmental reasons. Noting this is the same for all Trade Effluent discharges and not just those arising from resomation.

Many of our sites require upgrades in capacity driven by underlying population growth and increased environmental standards. It is necessary therefore to consider to what extent, if implemented extensively, this process may have on the demand placed on water and wastewater infrastructure, including

the extent to which such needs might 'crowd out' other governmental priorities, such as accommodating new housing growth. We therefore think it is essential that any primary legislation includes an explicit requirement to consider the environmental and growth impacts of any secondary legislation enabling resomation.

If Thames Water was to consider accepting the wastewater from this process into the foul sewer, then the resomation operator must conform to the requirements under the Water Industry Act 1991 (Sections 118-141). In such a scenario, it would be essential for resomation facilities to be externally regulated to ensure all environmental impacts and legal requirements are followed, and that any pre-treatment, prior to the discharge from the premises into the (foul) sewer network took place.

Appeals:

Currently any customer who is aggrieved by the refusal of a Consent (or the imposition of conditions) has the right of appeal under Section 122 of the Water Industry Act 1991. We would envisage these appeal rights continuing.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRFW-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-04 13:04:07

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Kettering Muslim Association

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

No

Please share your views below:

As human life is sacred, so is human death. The body does not become a mere disposable inconvenience bereft of human dignity. The funerary method must remain a burial or cremation without any interference to expedite the decomposition.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

No

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

No

Please share your views below:

I disagree with the new funerary methods

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

No

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Human dignity and public health must be the primary concerns. Just because the soul has departed, the body does not lose the human connection. The current funerary methods are fit for purpose and working well. Societal and economic pressures are demeaning death as a waste process to be managed. It is a trust to be honoured. A human body must be respected as much in death as in life.

Please share your views below:

Any new legislation must have due regard to the religious obligations of our multi-faith communities.

Consultation Question 8.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Disagree with the new funerary methods

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 10.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Not Answered

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

These new methods will have serious religious consequences for the Islamic and Jewish faiths.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

On religious grounds it will disadvantage the Muslim community.

As mortality is not a bureaucratic problem but a profound human passage.

This is more than policy. It is identity. It is testimony. It is the measure of who we are and what we carry as Muslims: a trust to honour both the living and the dead, and to share that trust as an act of mercy with all those around us.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRFS-1

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods

Submitted on 2025-09-04 14:18:03

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Humanists UK

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

Choose County

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No

Please share your views below:

No

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

no comment

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

All three important.

Just to note that it is frequently assumed that the concern for preservation of human dignity is unique to religious groups. Of course, non-religious people have concern also, as humanists, we put the utmost importance on the respect for a unique human being.

A humanist perspective has concern also for the protection of the rest of the community/society as a whole, and also for the natural world around us.

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

no comment

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

no comment

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes, there should be the ability to make provision for approved trials of new funerary methods

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

no comment

Consultation Question 15.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

no comment

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

no comment

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

no comment

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

no comment

From: [Andrew Bainham](#)
Sent on: 04 June 2025 12:10:36
To: [bcnfm](#)
Subject: New Funerary Methods consultation



Good morning,

I have read the Commission's summary of its consultation paper and will look forward to reading the paper itself.

As a family lawyer, I think I am unlikely to wish to comment on the paper as it does not directly raise issues affecting the family, certainly no more than other traditional funeral methods do. My interest will principally be in the rights and obligations branch of the Commission's wider project. I do however wish to make just two comments on this latest consultation.

1. I believe that new funerary methods ought not to be permitted unless it is completely clear that this is what the deceased wanted. In this respect they are in a quite different category to burial and cremation. To take burial and cremation first, if the deceased did not express a clear view on one or the other, it is perfectly reasonable, indeed necessary, that the person with the legal authority to dispose of the body should arrange either a burial or cremation. The normal default position is likely to be cremation as around 80 per cent of people here opt for it. But it would be quite reasonable to choose burial, especially if cultural or religious factors enter into it - as where the deceased was a Muslim or Orthodox Jew. But it would be entirely unreasonable and should be unlawful for the person with authority to impose alkaline hydrolysis or human composting on a deceased person who did not make it crystal clear that they wanted this. These are not normal default methods of disposal at all. I therefore think that in general, while the onus to specify burial or cremation should be on the deceased, the onus in relation to new funerary methods should be on the person with authority to deal with the body to produce written evidence that it is what the deceased wanted. This might well be, but would not necessarily be, a will.
2. I am glad to see that the Commission endorses the principle of human dignity in its consultation paper. In a recent article on cremation which I published in the Family Law journal, I too have raised the issue of human dignity, specifically in relation to direct cremation. I have also emailed the Commission previously about this. I just want to underline here that I think the principle of human dignity requires some scrutiny and perhaps legal regulation of direct cremation. There should be a sharp focus on whether it is consistent with human dignity for it to be unclear which crematorium will be used, when the cremation will happen and what methods of transportation, storage of bodies and so on take place in practice. And again, the question should be robustly asked. Is direct cremation what the deceased person wanted or is it for the convenience or cost-cutting or both of those left behind? The human dignity principle, I suggest, is in play here.

I would be grateful if receipt of this email message could be acknowledged.

With best wishes
Andrew Bainham
Emeritus Reader in Family Law and Policy,
University of Cambridge

From: [REDACTED]
Sent on: 26 July 2025 20:13:28
To: [bcnfm](#)
Subject: New Funerary Methods

[REDACTED]

Dear bcnfm

I have reservations about the proposals for the following reasons:

1. I would be concerned the chemicals or substances used could fall into the wrong hands.
2. I would be concerned about the amount of energy used - and green belt and other natural areas designated and desecrated in order to erect necessary facilities. In other words, the sustainability.
3. I am not certain the following has been thought through:
Power cuts
Water shortages
Cyber crime
Climate change/ extreme changes in air pressure
Malfunction
4. How appropriate human composting for example, would be, if someone has died from a virus, or infectious disease, etc.
5. How much pressure would ultimately be put on people. I am sorry, I can't help feeling this is either the stuff of horror films, or treating people like trash!

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPad

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRXX-R

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-04 15:00:15

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Preston City Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

N/A

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

n/a

Please share your views below:

n/a

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

I am of the view that Licensing would strengthen the regulation of the industry and therefore instil public confidence in an otherwise new regime.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

1.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

n/a

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

n/a

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

1.

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

n/a

Please share your views below:

n/a

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

n/a

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRFK-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-04 15:21:51

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Quaker Social Action

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

No, we're not aware of any.

Please share your views below:

No, we're not aware of any.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

However, we wonder if the proposal for foetuses of less than 24 weeks to be brought within the scope of The Cremation (England and Wales) Regulations 2008 (a proposal we support and believe should be extended to new funerary methods) potentially means some form of registration or documentation

would need introducing for this. That is, if the existing Baby Loss Certificate process is not sufficient for this.

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

We agree that licensing should be part of this regulation. It is important for public confidence, safety and the respectful and dignified treatment of both people who have died and their family and friends.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes, we agree that the Government must have regard to these principles. Clarity on the definition of 'human dignity' would be beneficial.

Please share your views below:

It seems clear at least from the paper that 'human dignity' is intended to refer to people who have died, as opposed to their friends or family. We believe the Government should also have regard to 'Care of bereaved people'. While there would likely be a lot of crossover between 'Protection of human dignity' and 'Care of bereaved people', there are arguably situations in which they would not overlap. For example, in relation to the Mortonhall scandal where babies were cremated with unrelated adults without parental consent, this would go against both principles. However, when parents were not told about the existence of baby ashes and those ashes were then scattered or buried in the garden of remembrance without consent this could arguably only be said to go against a principle of ensuring the care of bereaved people.

Consultation Question 8.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

We particularly wanted to note support for the call for Government to deliver on its promise to bring the cremation of foetuses of less than 24 weeks within the scope of the Cremation (England and Wales) Regulations 2008. And for new funerary methods also to extend to foetuses of less than 24 weeks.

Please share your views below:

In the making of these regulations, we invite consideration of the fact that the loss of a baby/foetus before 24 weeks can be, though is not always, just as devastating to the family as the loss of a baby born from 24 weeks.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

We agree that trials should be allowed in law to ensure that methods are as safe and respectful as possible before approval. Given the delicate nature of these trials and the potential impact on public health, the environment, the dignity of the person who has died and their family and friends it is also important there are regulations to require safeguards.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 15.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

While we recognise the added element and extent of possible unknowns with new funerary methods, it is also the case that if cremations were carried out without the appropriate safeguards, in contravention of the relevant regulations, the emissions could also be damaging for public health.

Please share your views below:

While this would be a serious offence, we do not believe that imprisonment is the right approach. If the penalty were to be higher we would be more supportive of a larger fine.

We also note that there is quite a bit of speculation in the paper at this point in terms of the degree of harm the offence would cause: "The potential harm that MIGHT arise from the use of a non-regulated funerary method COULD be very serious. IF a method emerged that, FOR EXAMPLE, was dangerous to public health or the environment or would have an impact on human dignity, it MIGHT be appropriate for a more severe penalty to be imposed." We feel it would be difficult to legislate fairly with this level of uncertainty.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

No comment

Response of [REDACTED] to Law
Commission Consultation Paper 272 on New Funerary Methods.

Introduction

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Question 1, paragraph 2.29

I do not agree with the simplistic definition being put forward.

A new funerary method is a proposed alternative process whilst not currently
illegal is one not presently presumed to be permitted under Common Law.

The other heads of your definition are sufficient. There must be greater emphasis that the bizarre alternative methods are not ones currently in use in say mainland Europe or other highly populated areas of the world. The statement that this process is used in other countries is misleading.

Whilst presently the process would not be regarded as illegal if it does not cause a nuisance to the public, the Assize case that decided that is not one of sufficient status to be binding upon subsequent operations. Whether it is in the public interest for the Government to back such activities is not even hinted at. It presupposes that if regulations are proposed then any activities not regulated would be illegal. This would need a specific prohibition on all unknown methods other than those now under consideration.

There is a strong case that these types of alternative disposals would be offensive to and even harmful to the general wellbeing of the public or society and not in the public interest. This is not touched on in the opening comments of this consultation paper.

Question 2 paragraphs 2.87 and 2.88

The consultation document makes no mention of hybrid disposal carried out in other jurisdictions such as Greece where a body is allowed to decompose before skeletal remains are gathered, washed and thereafter stored. This seems to be now in favour in places such as Thailand. It can only be regarded as a temporary burial during that process.

Burial in earth is a great cleanser. How many times do you read of archaeologists suiting themselves up against plague pits when there is no risk of contamination.

Composting is not a burial. It is a body being subjected to an industrial process and to suggest that it could be a burial in a container is far-fetched. It is a public danger and for part of that compost potentially containing deadly pathogens to be handed back to relatives is foolhardy.

Dissolving a body and then having the resultant liquid disposed of along with all the other detritus of human waste through the waste water system is not an example of civilised behaviour that one would expect from any advanced society; but an indication that there is no respect or tender sympathies for the dead; but a cold hearted belief that the dead are nothing but a nuisance to the living regardless of how the dead contributed to the way of life now experienced by the living.

In large conurbations the treatment plant will separate the solids and reclaim the water for reuse. It was estimated that Londoners would drink the same water eleven times during their lifetimes.

Question 3 paragraph 3.68

Perhaps the draftsman of the 1953 Act in defining “disposal” “in relation to a dead body disposal by burial cremation or any other means “was hard pressed to think of any other way of disposal other than by cremation or burial. The best this chapter can do is to suggest burial at sea which in itself is a form of burial just not in a solid structure.

I would suspect that as in these cases the draftsman was looking backwards and not forwards for his inspiration for those words. Disposal by quicklime was a common funerary practice especially prevalent for use in plague pits during the Great Plague of 1665. Would that be dissolution by chemical action?

I hardly think that the idea of composting or dissolution in alkali in any way touched his or her imagination.

Whatever the system used, the process of registration should be one fit for all and obligatory for any new proponents of alternative means of disposal to observe so at the end of the day the only distinction would be as to how the actual disposal was carried out.

Question 4. Paragraph 5.56

What is missing from this consultation document is evidence of what is driving this apparent clamour for alternative means of disposal. The short answer appears to be that if there was evidence then it would be referred to. The fact that there is no such information seems to suggest that the desire for dissolution or composting most probably emanates from the deceased themselves.

Those that have to face their own mortality are often beset by fears of being buried and being eaten by worms or alternatively being consumed by flames. It has to be said that Sir Simon Schama hasn't helped with his ghoulish description of what happens to a body being cremated in his program “The Road to Auschwitz”

Queensland correctly stated the position as previously set out in the Dr Price case. You can do whatever you like in this country provided it doesn't cause a public nuisance. However, this has been eroded by a mass of laws which were not around at the time when the Welshman tried to cremate his infant son. Planning, Public Health and the morass of secondary legislation has rendered the common law right to do what you want, valueless.

However, composting and the like is not illegal. It would be more straightforward to make it illegal than to try and second guess all the safety measures that would need to be in place to protect the living.

It seems that other jurisdictions have tried to grapple with this. Is the temperature too high, will it kill off all known diseases, should it be possible to discharge into the public drainage system if available; what if it isn't?

Are any of the claims that there will be rigorous safety procedures, that nobody will break the law and use human compost for agriculture, that people have told the truth about nuclear treatments or other notifiable diseases to be accepted as irrefutable. Would you want somebody who has died of haemorrhagic fever to be dissolved and passed into the public sewer and sublimely believe that the water authority will have no spills into the water system as their infrastructure will be perfect.

Both these processes should be banned until H.M Government takes a decision that there is sufficient demand to incur the expense of Parliamentary time to confirm that a large percentage of the hundreds of thousands of deaths now dealt with by cremation should include these methods.

Therefore, it should not be included in the definition of cremation and should be a separate issue on its own not influenced by what happens in the vast territory of America or Canada if the Government feels that it is in the Public Interest to allow what can only be a tiny number who have requested this.

Historically legislation especially in Victorian times has concentrated on alleviating disease cause by the unsanitary disposal of the dead. The same principles should apply yet the consultation document is completely silent on what advantages would accrue. On the contrary, it throws up numerous concerns on public health grounds. It is too easy to be negative. Cremation started in a small way and now dominates the landscape of disposal but did not cause the health concerns even before the time where emissions were improved

The dead don't care. They cannot care. They are dead. But perhaps the entrepreneurs who see a commercial opportunity do. Or the Government who want to cut down on the carbon footprint caused by cremations without regard to the industrial process that will have to be housed.

Having someone dissolved for several hours or rotated in a composting chamber for several months shows a lack of respect for the end of someone's human existence and lack of closure for family and friends. The dead cannot legislate from the grave and there is no property in a cadaver. Common sense should take priority over academic considerations.

Question 5. Paragraph 5.70

It seems that any legislation for the regulation of any new funerary method can only be in general terms allowing for regulations to be issued once the method is shown how it can be operated safely without any risk to the public health or environment. It is apparent from the narrative preceding this question that the question of public health or environment risks are not mentioned at all. The extent of other funerary methods has not been defined as probably they haven't been thought of yet. However, excarnation is not illegal in the United Kingdom but has not been mentioned as being in need of regulation mainly because it is not practised as far as is known.

Question 6. Paragraph 5.84

By suggesting a licensing system is just another example of the erosion of the freedom and liberties this nation has traditionally enjoyed until it is eroded by academics who advocate obtaining a licence as a means of control.

Once there is a requirement for a licence then the process is illegal until the establishment gives its authority to proceed.

Previously in the case of Marine Store Dealers or for that matter Scrap Metal Merchants, licencing was simply a system of registration, not consent so that the local authorities could have a record of a business that would be carried on where there was a possibility of an infraction of other laws such as theft or dealing in stolen goods. In the case of Marine Store Dealers it was the Merchant Shipping Act of 1894 and of Scrap Metal Dealers it was the Scrap Metal Act 1964. Recent legislation now forces a Scrap Metal Dealer to have a licence or permission to trade normally for about five years.

Regulation without the need for measures to force the submission of applicants would seem all that is necessary. Anybody who has that calling would have to comply simply with the regulations in force.

Question 7. Paragraphs 6.51 and 6.52.

The three principles set out in paragraph 6.51 are paramount and should have priority over the wishes of those causing the body to be disposed of. Whilst most of the 600,000 corpses that are disposed of each year fade into obscurity, every being that enjoyed the daily gift of existence should not be unconditionally erased simply because of those entrepreneurs treating these new ideas as a means of giving more competition and choice without regard to what that cadaver meant in the overall development of society.

It was universally recognised that the dead are an inconvenience to the living but that is not the fault of the dead or the generations of dead that went before them. Ensuring a proper dignified disposal without any danger to public health or the environment should be the minimum aim of any civilised society.

Suggesting that those corpses disposed of by alkali treatment or composting should have their own separate register makes no sense. If there is a need to note how a body is disposed of then it would simply be a need to tick one of four boxes. But again, for what purpose?

All the naysayers' alarms about cremation came to naught. Emissions were dealt with by reprocessing gasses twice and they are now moving towards electric ovens instead of gas. However, cremation does not regard human residue simply as human detritus to pour down the drain or to fertilise land for crops. There has been criticism in the past that the scattering of ashes in beauty spots such as the top of Ben Nevis is altering the ecology of the site by the introduction of unwanted trace elements from the ashes.

Question 8 paragraphs 6.72 and 6.73

Adoption of these suggested alternative means of disposal of human remains constitutes a fundamental societal change in how the general public view the bench mark on what is acceptable to the civilisation that we presently enjoy.

The old saw of locking the stable door after the horse has bolted is applicable in this instance insofar as the horse hasn't actually arrived at the stable.

How can you legislate for new means of disposal when there is no consensus yet as to whether such alternatives would be acceptable.

There can only be a broad-brush stroke warning off of any imaginary mal practice and to this end the suggestion in paragraph 6.72, can only be regarded as forcing the issue, if the effect of the draft legislation presented to the Commons is to create the impression, that the alternative means of disposal are a fait accompli and regulation is required.

There is no problem with the suggested draft but it would have to be read in context. It only reflects antique trains of thought initiated when cremation came into being before the days of medical examiners and other bureaucratic safeguards that have been introduced or will be introduced such as the licencing of the funeral industry rendering such offences unlikely.

Question 9. paragraph 6.73

I fully support the views set out in paragraph 6.68. and disagree with the last sentence of paragraph 6.71.

Does laying a Statutory Instrument before Parliament attract the sort of scrutiny where criminality is defined under delegated powers.

S.I's are frequently badly drafted and passed on a nod. This can be easily seen now that Parliamentary proceedings have been televised in a house with only a handful of attendees present. If new criminal offences are to be created from chasing shadows, then it must have the full rigorous scrutiny that primary legislation would be subjected to.

Question 10. Paragraph 6.81

With the risk of appearing pedantic, it seems that the suggestion that the use and regulation of any funerary method and its application should be the subject of primary legislation seems to infer that these methods already exist in this country when they do not. If the suggestion were to regulate ANY new funerary method which could be introduced would

suggest that the draftsman would be trying to legislate to bind future lawmakers which I suggest, would be contrary to common law. To try and disguise the proposal for regulating new methods as though they are already being used is untruthful.

Question 11. Paragraphs 6.120 and 6.121.

As far as I can imagine trying to legislate for an unknown process and the effect it would have on society, the environment and the health of the nation, obviously the regulation would need to be as robust as possible. However, the claim that these processes are in an advanced stage of development is illusory as there is no evidence that society as a whole wants to see their nearest and dearest composted or simply flushed away.

I cannot see that a piece of “what if” legislation has any validity.

What has validity is a draft Best Practice Code of Conduct based upon the experiences of other jurisdictions that seem intent of going down this path.

We have a robust system of Town and Country Planning in this Country. Any new method is likely to require some sort of industrial building or extension to existing crematorium. It is likely that any new facility will have to be placed on a green belt or brown field site. This has already been hinted at in the earlier part of this study. If consent were granted it would be simple to include as a condition of such consent, the mandatory use of such Practice Code. This could be reviewed and amended as any new method evolves without the time consuming need to seek secondary legislation which could easily be out of date by the time it came into effect.

Question 12. Paragraph 6.126

There should be an absolute prohibition on using new funerary methods enforceable as a criminal offence unless a licence is sought of the Secretary of State subject to safeguards to enable a trial to go ahead and if successful to be converted into a full consent to permit such disposals.

Question 13. Paragraph 7.14

Whilst it erodes the common law position that a person can do anything they like unless there is a law that says you cannot, the risk to the public by potential unregistered operators disposing of cadavers that may be diseased makes this an exception to the rule. As the practice is currently being used in a minority of places, it is better to prohibit the practice until regulations are put in place but only once the demand if any is known. Perhaps the prohibition could include those funerary tourists from abroad who may seek a disposal for their relatives not yet available or banned in their own domicile.

Question 14. Paragraph 7.45, 7.46 and 7.47

I disagree on a number of points. Ignorance of the law is no defence. A person who procures or takes part in a disposal using a method other than by burial or cremation cannot rely on a defence that he or she didn't know.

Absolute offences are not unknown in this country. Take driving offences. It is no defence to say that a person did not know he or she was speeding, or driving without insurance or simply over the limit. The same criteria should apply to the disposal of bodies.

If you buy a house, the position is caveat emptor. The same should apply to buying funeral services. Adding all these fault issues detracts from the position that there should be no disposal until I feel that a licence is issued by the Secretary of State setting out mandatory terms and conditions to be observed which could become industry standard once the type of alternative disposal is known. Up to that point it should be a simple criminal offence carrying with it a fine of say £3000 and/or two years imprisonment.

Question 15. Paragraphs 7.48 and 7.49

There should be no distinction between existing methods of disposal and any perceived new ones. If anything, any new legislation should take the opportunity to increase fine levels so that it doesn't merely become an overhead expense. The industry is likely to become even more heavily dominated by large companies where such corporations such as [REDACTED] continue to swallow up smaller family run firms. The possibility of a period of imprisonment should also focus the mind especially if it targets employees who may otherwise seek to shield themselves through a corporate situation.

Question 16. Paragraph 8.9.

Again, I disagree with these comments. There is no risk of running out of burial space. For some reason the author of those comments is determined to avoid the obvious that those cemeteries or burial grounds provided by our Victorian forebears may be getting fuller as some indeed are now full. Neither the church of England nor any Local Authority want to spend the money creating a new ground. In fact, society seems to be voting with its feet and over 82% of disposals are now by cremation. Ashes take up little or no room compared to a grave. To say that the Country is running out of room is fraudulent, misleading and panic making where none exists.

New methods are not being proposed by the altruism of the Undertaking industry nor to give the public more choice. It is done for commercial gain which sits happily with the Church and Local government who will not have to fund it. In fact, they are quite content to dig up existing graves and reuse them to avoid spending any money. As the Office of National Statistics say, expenditure is so low that they cannot measure whether what is spent represents value for money.

In practical terms, any new methods are likely to be simply an extension of existing cremation infrastructure where the sector is increasingly becoming dominated by one provider. Local Authority crematoria will no doubt have to answer to members views on the dignity of disposal and the extra cost of adding to the existing service which already subsidises more traditional means of disposal by burial.

Question 17. Paragraph 8.16 and Question 18. Paragraph 8.18.

The question itself demonstrates that there has been no market research if the Commission is now asking for evidence or data. No commercial organisation would expend the time and cost of researching the existing law and proposals for changes without first determining whether there is in fact a demand.

Whilst reference is made to the use of new funerary methods in other jurisdictions, there has been no evidence reported that there is a demand which will grow in clamour over time. On the contrary, the main countries such as Canada, Australia and some of the states of America cover vast tracts of land so one would anticipate that no claim has been put forward that they are allegedly running out of space.

I cannot speak for Wales. All I can comment is that when the Scottish legislation was being proposed, there was considerable opposition to it in Scotland including or in particular to the reuse of lairds after a short period of time. It was still pushed through. Is that going to be the same case here. There has been no evidence put forward as to how the Welsh Assembly views this matter or more importantly, the Welsh public.

Whilst a Socialist Government has traditionally passed the larger amount of legislation with punitive provisions, the last Socialist Government dropped the question of funerary reform because there was no consensus as reported in the Lords by Lord Rich. No evidence of the earlier approach has been included in this consultation document.

Nobody seems to have asked in this Consultation document whether it is or is not in the Public interest.

I would advocate that it isn't. If there are fears about public safety then common sense would say that it should be deemed unreasonable and accordingly unlawful.

Individual rights have to be balanced against societal welfare and public morals.

Gladstone was pompously speaking for the general public when he said..." show me the manner in which a Nation or community cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender sympathies of the people their respect for the laws of the land and their loyalty to high ideals"

What he was saying is that a person may be dead but even though he or she may no longer be part of the community of the living, he or she does form part of the community of the dead and how society deals with that. Individual preferences by a person causing the body to be disposed of should take second place as to how Society views the moral benchmark of

disposal in keeping with its obligation to itself and disdains other practices including preservation of cadavers' bodies in perpetuity by equally bizarre methods.

This exercise attempts to hold itself out as suggesting a standard template reviewing and consolidating or improving what has gone on before. But it does not take into account the preservation of the standards of society but merely suggests introducing an alternative means of disposal as though this was a normal extension when it is unlikely to have any impact at all on the disposal of over 600,000 bodies a year.

There is a responsibility to Society Standards and the idea of dissolving a body and passing the waste product through the drains of the community or for that matter composting a body ignores the overall need of Society to be civilised and not to be distracted by the requirements of the few

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRJG-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-04 15:39:38

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

St Helens Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

NA

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Nothing to add.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Not aware of any other processes other than the ones mentioned.

Please share your views below:

As above.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

To ensure procedures are accountable and easy for the bereaved and to provide clarity within the legislation.

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

To modernise the funerary methods and not refer to one form of disposal and meet future anticipated needs.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

To assist with future developments within the funerary sector and make the legislation adaptable for future developments.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

I agree that a license to operate should be included, to set standards within the system.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Absolutely agree that any legislation should include the above principles.

Please share your views below:

Nothing to add at this stage.

Consultation Question 8.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

No particular view.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Agree fully

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Nothing to add.

Please share your views below:

Nothing further to add.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes this should include provision for future approved trials of new funerary methods.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

NA

Yes

Please share your views below:

NA

Please share your views below:

Do not know enough to comment.

Consultation Question 15.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

NA

Please share your views below:

NA

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

No data or evidence available at this stage.

I feel any new funerary methods will take a while to be accepted as the norm due to public perception.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

Funeral poverty could impact a persons choice on the type of funerary method chosen at the time of death.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Not applicable

From: [REDACTED]
Sent on: 15 August 2025 10:22:30
To: [bcnfm](#)
Subject: New Funerary Methods consultation - Historic England response

[REDACTED]

Dear Law Commission

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the consultation on your review related to New Funerary Methods. This response has been prepared on behalf of Historic England. Historic England is the Government’s statutory adviser on all matters relating to the historic environment in England. We are a non-departmental public body established under the National Heritage Act 1983 and sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). We champion and protect England’s historic places, providing expert advice to local planning authorities, developers, owners, and communities to help ensure our historic environment is properly understood, enjoyed, and cared for.

We only have a comment in relation to question 7, which is why we are responding via email. Question 7: ‘Should primary legislation expressly require the Government to have regard to the following principles when making secondary legislation about specific new funerary methods? 1) Protection of the environment; 2) protection of public health and public safety; 3) preservation of human dignity’.

We consider that there should be a requirement to have regard to principles of the protection of the environment, and would note that this would require consideration of heritage assets in decision-making, and include the historic environment as part of a wider definition of the environment. “Environment” can sometimes be misunderstood to just mean the “natural environment”, however this is incorrect, as it also includes the “historic environment”. It is important to make sure that when considering new funerary methods that there is the appropriate consideration of the historic environment, and this should be secured through legislation.

We would welcome the opportunity to provide further advice on the historic environment in the context of this consultation and any further consultation on New Funerary Methods.

If you have any questions about our response, please feel free to contact us.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]



Ensuring our heritage lives on and is loved for longer.
historicengland.org.uk

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Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRF7-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-04 16:04:31

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

British Board of Scholars and Imams

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

No

Please share your views below:

Within Islamic theology, respecting and honouring the deceased is the cornerstone of Islamic funerary practices. Methods beyond burial, or burial at sea are not permitted under Islamic Law. Cremation, composting, or hydrolysis would be considered as severe desecrations of human dignity. Based upon this, the BBSI is strongly in favour of retaining the current funerary methods.

As a definition, of what a new funerary method is to be defined as, this seems sound - but no method beyond burial at land or sea would be supported by the BBSI.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

The BBSI has issued an Islamic legal verdict in our forthcoming report that water cremation is not permitted under Islam. Here is an excerpt:

"In recent years, a new method of disposing of the deceased has emerged. Alkaline hydrolysis, sometimes dubbed "water-cremation," involves placing the deceased in an airtight, pressurised cylinder filled with water and strong alkaline chemicals. The liquid is often heated to 150 °C and gently agitated, accelerating decomposition. All organic material dissolves, leaving only bones, which are then pulverised.

"Breaking a dead man's bone is like breaking it when he is alive."

Imām Al-Suyūṭī mentions the context of this ḥadīth; the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) saw a gravedigger completing a grave. The gravedigger brought a bone, either a shin-bone or upper-arm bone, and was about to break it. Then the Prophet forbade him from doing so. It is

important to recall that this Islamic prohibition is not because of a type of pain that the deceased feels, but is rather to do with respect for the deceased, and the subsequent sin that one incurs for breaking the bone of the deceased.

People opt for Water Cremation because it is more eco-friendly than conventional cremation and seems gentler on the body; Archbishop Desmond Tutu was “water-cremated.”

There is no doubt that this method is Islamically prohibited for the same reasons that conventional cremation is unlawful: it violates the dignity afforded to the deceased.

Please share your views below:

No.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The BBSI is against both of new funerary methods. If they are entered into law, then we would like to see a separate regulatory framework which specifically protects the rights of religious communities against these newer methods.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Again, were new funerary methods to become part of law, the BBSI would need to be assured that the rights of religious communities are protected, specifically in how these methods are used. These methods are relevant in context of grave shortages, but even despite that context, Islamic theology would not permit such methods, and would instead propose other solutions such as grave re-use, or multiple bodies per grave.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

Licensing should be part of the regulation. As we've detailed, these methods are offensive to Islamic sensibilities surrounding death; were they to become part of new legislations, we would want to be assured that they can only be used in specific, restricted ways, and not in a way which, for example, local authorities could enact with little consultation.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

The BBSI would strongly be in favour of this. Respect and honour for the deceased is essential for Muslims. Whilst this may be implicit, Muslims would want to see this made explicit. A relevant excerpt from our forthcoming report:

There are important themes and meanings that undergird many of the laws surrounding death and burial in Islam. This section briefly details these legal meanings. Understanding them provides an intuitive sense of how Islamic burial law functions and what considerations drive the following legal cases.

1. Respect for the deceased: Islam honours humans in life and death. This is reflected in a variety of legal cases, including the swiftness of burials, shrouding, and preventing harm to the body, among others.

2. Swiftness of burials as an extension of respect: Importance is generally given to speedy burials. Delays should be avoided unless necessary, and the actual escorting of the body to the grave should be at pace. This is connected to (1) preventing decay and odour from the body so as not to disturb people or violate respect for the deceased, and (2) avoiding similarities with funeral practices of other religions. Contrary to popular opinion, there is no legally significant concept of pain being inflicted on the deceased because of delays to burials.

3. Simplicity and humility: Muslims are reminded of the ephemeral nature of this worldly life through plain and austere burials. This is also reflected in shrouding and the simplicity of graves.

Please share your views below:

The BBSI would also like to see the explicit protection of religious communities. The Coronavirus Pandemic demonstrated that funerary methods (i.e. cremation) which religious communities (both Muslim and Jewish) could have been made mandatory, were it not for the strong intervention of both communities. The BBSI would therefore strongly wish to see measures which protect religious communities from similar situations in the future.

Consultation Question 8.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

The BBSI would support measures to prevent contraventions. We have no view on the exactitude of these measures.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 14.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 15.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

The BBSI strongly opposes the two new funerary methods being proposed. The only accepted methods of disposing of the deceased under Islamic practice are burial, or, under exceptional circumstances, burial at sea.

The methods under consideration do not require burial grounds. The significant concern which this invokes is that the provision of burial grounds will become uncommon on account of the lesser overall demand for them.

In addition to this, we are concerned that there may be ways in which these new methods are made mandatory, either under the pretext of environment concerns, burial space shortage, or another pandemic. These methods are gravely offensive to the sensibilities of Muslims.

Our forthcoming report will fully detail Islamic approaches to death and burial.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRFT-2

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-04 16:23:28

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

The Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

N/A

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The FBCA agrees that any process that breaks down the deceased and is not considered burial, cremation or burial at sea, should be considered a new funerary method. Technology that has the main purpose of preserving the deceased to allow of further research or just immortalisation should not be included in the definition of new funerary method.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

There is no mention of the human trials conducted by Middlesex & Sheffield Universities in 2019 that the FBCA collaborated on when five bodies were passed through the Alkaline hydrolysis method with the permission of the Ministry of Justice. Key stakeholders in the UK study included the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities (FBCA) who formed a working group to develop a Code of Conduct for Water Cremation to ensure the trials were undertaken with the same due care and dignity afforded to traditional cremation. Full ethical approval for the study (including the collection and analysis of samples for a range of parameters) was sought and secured from the University of Sheffield's Ethics Committee and approval for the analysis of PPE samples for DNA and proteins was secured from Middlesex University's Ethics Committee. Written confirmation was received from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) that – whilst they were not party to the study – they wished to be kept informed of the results. The MoJ also stated that they had discussed the study with the Human Tissues Authority (HTA) and that the HTA had stated it did not consider itself to have a statutory role in the study.

Please share your views below:

The FBCA has watched closely the development of all technologies mentioned in the paragraphs but as noted none of the emerging processes have continued. We are aware of alkaline hydrolysis and organic dispersal as the only two main viable alternatives to the traditional funerary methods.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The FBCA sees it as critical that there is a level process between all methods so as to not favour one over another. The requirements for proper registration is critical to this and as the new methods emerge the preservation of historical records for future generations is an equally important role of any provider as the process its self. Burial, Cremation, Burial at sea, and new funerary methods as regulated need to be providing a service to the bereaved both as disposal methods but also historical searchable records.

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The FBCA's opinion is that whilst it may be easier to regulate new methods under the definition of cremation it would be potentially confusing for the public. Burial & cremation are well understood and used methods of funeral / disposal of the deceased, adding other methods under this title could lead to a devaluing of the titles and confidence in the processes used. New funerary methods should be regulated separately to allow for transparency, individualisation of regulation , and public confidence.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

As mentioned in our previous reply, clear, well considered regulation would allow for better public confidence in any new method. We have previously been of the opinion that the "power" should be the "duty" to make regulations however during the consultation period it has been considered acceptable to only provide the "power" and leave it the government of the day to decide if a new method should be regulated rather than mandate they have too as this may not be in the wider public interest.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

The FBCA' doesn't agree with he potential for licensing of new funerary methods which have been subject to regulation via secondary legislation. As with Burial, Cremation, and new funerary methods under the current proposals the process and application of any funerary method would be regulated and therefore accountable to the law. Licensing would add a further layer of complexity that we believe is unnecessary. Where processes or business are unregulated such as funeral directors we see that licensing can play a part to help the public have confidence in the ability and professionalism of the business. As the use of a new funerary method that was unregulated would be a criminal offence under these proposals then this deals with the potential for rouge operators and licensing just adds cost and complexity for no substantial benefit. As the UK's only Trade Association able to represent or admit new funerary method providers we see the future being one where our codes of practice and ethics would act, as they currently do for cremation and burial, as the watchdog on the application of the practices. Finally if licensing was considered for new funerary methods then there is a wider argument that it should be considered for burial and cremation providers to ensure there is a level playing field.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

The FBCA's view is that any new funerary method should have regard to the principles above. Its it critically important to use the existing frameworks protecting the environmental impact of any new process. Without this a new method could be harmful and therefore undesirable. This leads into the safety of the public more widely as is evidenced via current health and safety regulation and the need for control of matter regarding public health and sanitation are none negotiable. Finally the preservation of human dignity both for the deceased and the remaining family should be at the forefront of any new method and therefore the regulation to permit it.

Please share your views below:

The FBCA would like to see the following additional principles included

1) Type, Style, and Location of business premises - these should be defined to ensure public decency and follow a similar way of working such as the

cremation sector has to follow now.

2) If new methods are to presell their services then an appropriate requirement to be part of the FCA regulations needs to be considered.

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

This is in line with the current requirements for other methods and therefore follows a logical process.

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

The FBCA would suggest the first point is where the offences are created within the primary legislation should be the preferred option as this is the point at which the highest level of scrutiny is provided and leaving the offences to be included in the secondary legislation is not without controversy.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Its critically important to provide registration of the disposals of to allow for accurate records and the option for future scrutiny. Burial and cremation records provide a window into a family's history and can provide accurate records of final resting places which allow future generations to mourn the loss of family members. Without similar registration of new funerary method disposals could lead to the public being disadvantaged.

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

As previously stated its important that a level playing field is presented between existing methods such as burial or cremation and any new funerary method. Many of the matters in 6.85 - to 6.119 are drawn from the cremation regulations and as such we support this.

Please share your views below:

It would be good to have a clause in the proposed regulation that mandates that any new method must be regulated to at least the same level as current methods so as to continue a level playing field and not allow one method to have a regulatory advantage over another.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

The FBCA would agree that the option to regulate trials of new methods may be helpful to ensure that potential new providers can evidence compliance rather than leaving the situation such that its not possible to conduct trials under a limited framework and risking discouraging innovation. The evidence of our trial with Middlesex provided a large body of data but was conducted with consent of the Ministry of Justice but not approval. a limited trials framework would help to encourage development.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

No

Please share your views below:

This relates to question 12 and has the potential to stifle innovation. New methods should be able to be trialed if not regulated as the parliamentary process and political will should not be the reason why one method prevails over another. It would be reasonable as suggested in question 12 that trials could be regulated under the primary legislation allowing for limited trials under controlled circumstances to have the explicit purpose of providing evidence to allow decision makers the opportunity to decide if full regulation is necessary.

Consultation Question 14.

No

Please share your views below:

Using this process to make the procurement or taking part in a new funerary method a criminal offence has significant consequences for the future development of technology and process. If this was the case in the mid to late 1800's then it could be argued that cremation as a funerary method would

never have been developed. If it is decided to make the above points law then it becomes even more critical to ensure the primary legislation allows for trials so that developers have the chance to test and develop their technology and not be criminalised for attempting to innovate.

No

Please share your views below:

For the reasons stated in questions 12, 13, and above this has the effect of limiting innovation and leaves the process in the hands of the government and civil service.

Please share your views below:

It would be reasonable to expect someone who is using a new unregulated funerary method to know that was the case and therefore option one seems the fairest way. Someone could be using a method and either believes it to be regulated or has been told it was and therefore it would be unfair to be held accountable regardless of what they were told.

Consultation Question 15.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

It would be reasonable to expect someone who is using a new unregulated funerary method to know that was the case and therefore option one seems the fairest way. Someone could be using a method and either believes it to be regulated or has been told it was and therefore it would be unfair to be held accountable regardless of what they were told.

Please share your views below:

Again whilst disagreeing with the principle of criminalisation we feel that penalties should be significant to act as a deterrent should the law be written in a way that doesn't allow for trials or use of the new methods prior to regulation.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

None to report

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

None to report

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

None to report

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRXT-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-04 16:38:49

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

MEINE ERDE (Circulum Vitae GmbH)

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

We generally support the proposed definition of a new funerary method as outlined in paragraph 2.29. The criteria are clear and provide an effective distinction between new funerary methods and established practices such as burial and cremation.

We would, however, suggest clarifying the reference to “burial at sea.” In practice, burial at sea follows cremation, meaning the process of “breaking down the body of the deceased person” is cremation. As such, burial at sea represents a method of disposing of ashes rather than a separate funerary method. Clarifying this point would help ensure that the definition accurately reflects the practical realities of existing practices.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

We are aware of significant developments regarding terramation (natural organic reduction – NOR) in Europe. For “human composting” we deliberately use the term terramation (or Reerdigung in German) in order to have a distinctive and dignified name for the new funerary method, and also because the process differs significantly from what people commonly understand as composting (for example, in a home garden).

MEINE ERDE is the first provider of terramation in Europe and has been offering this funerary method since 2022 in the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (www.meine-erde.de). In Germany, each of the 16 federal states has its own burial legislation.

The body of the deceased is placed on plant material in a vessel we call cocoon. In a controlled environment microorganisms (from the body and the plant material) generate heat up to 70 degrees Celsius and transform the organic material within the cocoon into soil within 40 days. The temperatures ensure the hygienisation of the soil from all common pathogens (a few rare pathogens like prions are currently an excluding factor). The anorganic parts of the bones remain, but age – according to research – as if they were underground for 20-50 years. The soil and bones are not separated, but refined in a

mill. According to strict cemetery requirements in Germany, the soil must then be placed at a burial site, although not six feet under, but in the active soil layer (about 60 cm) where the nutrients can enrich new plant life. (According to funerary law and cultures in other countries, it is likely that the new soil from terramation may be allowed to be taken home by the family and placed in the garden or dispersed in another place of significance to them. This is the case in federal states of the USA where terramation has been legalised.)

Based on initial experiences and in order to continue to explore terramation, the German federal state Schleswig-Holstein amended its funeral law in 2024 to include a so-called trial clause. This clause allows new funerary methods (other than cremation and earth burial) to be applied for and gather experience over a period of 2 to 5 years. The trial phase requires independent research, reporting, and verification of safety for both humans and the environment. After a successful trial the state parliament decides whether the new method should be included in the funerary law as an equivalent to cremation and burial.

Since 2022, people from 11 of the 16 German federal states have already undergone terramation. This demonstrates a high level of interest not only within Germany but also across Europe, as other legislatures are observing Schleswig-Holstein's experiences closely.

In Europe, there are at least 8 non-profit organizations and foundations explicitly working to introduce terramation in their respective countries:

Belgium – Compostez-moi!
Czech Republic – Poslední stopa
Denmark – Formuldning
France – Humo Sapiens
Germany – Stiftung Reerdigung
Netherlands – Stichting Veraarden
Sweden – Jordatorium
Switzerland – Werde Erde

Further information about these organizations is available here: <https://www.stiftung-reerdigung.de/wegbereiter>

Additionally, independent research is conducted by the Institute of Forensic Science, University of Leipzig. Researchers have published the first peer-reviewed study on terramation in 2024, and further research is ongoing and will be published in 2025.

Forensic study: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00194-023-00681-6>

Please share your views below:

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Developments in other jurisdictions

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

We agree that new funerary methods should be defined and regulated separately from existing methods. Although it can be reasonably argued that terramation is a form of earth burial (see 2.73 of the consultation paper)—since the end result is similar to what ideally occurs in a burial grave after 30–40 years—classifying it as a distinct funerary method allows for the development of regulation that is specifically tailored to its characteristics. Many existing rules for crematoria, for example, may not fully apply to terramation or other new methods, and separate classification ensures that the regulatory framework is both appropriate and effective.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

We support a legislative framework that grants the government the power to approve specific new funerary methods and set out how they should be carried out. A similar system already exists in Schleswig-Holstein (Germany), where the government (Ministry of Health and Justice) can approve trials of new burial methods and set out the specific regulations for their use. This approach ensures that the law remains future-proof, allowing for the emergence of multiple new funerary methods over time.

However, it is essential that there is a clear mechanism for the regulator to consider and evaluate a new method. This could include an application

process and defined criteria, such as evidence that the method works safely and appropriately. Without such a mechanism, the threshold for approval could become prohibitively high and stifle innovation. The application for a new funerary method cannot lie solely with the government. Providers must be able to submit their method for approval, as they are the innovators that develop new methods.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

We have considerable concerns about introducing a licensing system for new funerary methods if existing providers of cremation and burial do not currently require licensing. Imposing it on new methods could create an unfair disadvantage.

It is important to clarify the purpose of licensing. If it is intended to ensure that new providers comply with standards for health and safety, environmental protection, and other legal requirements, this could be reasonable. Licensing could also serve to ensure that specific technical or procedural standards for a method are met.

However, licensing must not overregulate or stifle innovation. It should provide sufficient flexibility for different providers to implement the method in their own way, while still adhering to good practice. For example, in terramation, there can be variations in the duration of the process, the construction of the vessel, the way the deceased is placed in the vessel, or the composition of the plant materials used. These process variations should be allowed, provided the method meets agreed standards and safety requirements.

Clear criteria for licensing should be established to balance public protection with innovation and diversity in practice.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Whether included explicitly in primary legislation or implicitly as legal bases, it is clear that new funerary methods must not violate these principles. In Germany, burial law is considered to serve hazard-prevention objectives and these principles are in most federal states explicitly mentioned in the funerary legislation.

With regard to human dignity, it is particularly important to clarify what is meant in legislation, to avoid allowing personal biases to override this difficult-to-define concept. Respect for dignity includes ensuring that the deceased is always treated respectfully, and that their wishes and right to self-determination are upheld even after death.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

We support option (2). This would allow the Government to create new offences in secondary legislation if it becomes apparent that existing provisions for breaches of regulation are insufficient, or if there is a need to regulate certain funerary methods specifically.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

We agree that the use of a new funerary method should be registered. It should be clear who is responsible for the registration for a specific new funerary method, just as it is for burial and cremation. The provider should at minimum document all processes and be able to provide this documentation to authorities. If the intention is to require registration beyond what crematoria currently document, the purpose of this registration should be clarified—if it is primarily to gather data on the interest in and use of the new method, a study might achieve the same goal without creating additional administrative burdens for providers of new funerary methods.

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Applicants for a new funerary method should demonstrate that the method works in accordance with its definition (cf. para. 6.81 on registration of new methods), that it respects occupational health and safety standards (cf. paras. 6.91–6.94 on operation, maintenance, and process elements), and that the

process and the remains are safe for the environment.

Regulation should set minimum standards, including who is permitted to offer the method (cf. para. 6.85 on opening and closing facilities) and what may be done with any resulting material or remains (cf. paras. 6.110–6.112 on remains). Beyond this, the provision of new funerary methods should follow normal business practices, as with any other regulated service.

Beyond these essential safeguards, regulation should remain proportionate and flexible, avoiding overly complex or prescriptive rules that would hinder innovation or create unnecessary administrative burdens.

Please share your views below:

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Regulation should set minimum standards, including who is permitted to offer the method (cf. para. 6.85 on opening and closing facilities) and what may be done with any resulting material or remains (cf. paras. 6.110–6.112 on remains). Beyond this, the provision of new funerary methods should follow normal business practices, as with any other regulated service.

Beyond these essential safeguards, regulation should remain proportionate and flexible, avoiding overly complex or prescriptive rules that would hinder innovation or create unnecessary administrative burdens.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes, the power to make regulations should include the ability to allow approved trials of new funerary methods (para. 6.126). The trials should be limited to funerary methods that are newly developed and not yet in use and established as a funerary method for humans in other jurisdictions. Providers of funerary methods that are already established in other jurisdictions should not be subjected to trials, because they have experience and data that can be submitted in the application for the funerary method to be considered and approved in secondary legislation.

Any trial scheme for newly developed methods should be straightforward to apply for and transparent in its requirements. The conditions of the trial—including safety standards, protection of operators, environmental impact, and proper handling of remains—should be clearly defined in regulation and focus on overarching principles rather than procedural complexity.

If a trial is successfully completed in accordance with these principles, there should be a clear, automatic pathway for the method to be formally approved and incorporated into funerary law. Providers should be able to quickly satisfy all conditions without being forced to remain in a prolonged trial phase unnecessarily.

The aim should be to ensure public safety and environmental protection while avoiding overly burdensome or detailed regulation that could unnecessarily delay the introduction of new, safe, and effective methods. By setting principle-based criteria and a transparent approval process, regulation can be both flexible and predictable, supporting innovation while maintaining trust in the safety of the funerary system.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

We do not see a need for primary legislation to explicitly prohibit the use of unregulated new funerary methods. It could simply clarify that only those methods that are regulated in the secondary legislation are permitted. Introducing such a prohibition could risk creating an unnecessary layer of criminalisation or the appearance of it, which might discourage innovation and the development of new methods. Legislation should instead focus on enabling safe and regulated methods, ensuring clarity and certainty without imposing barriers that could slow progress.

Consultation Question 14.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

We do not see a need for a new criminal offence of procuring or taking part in the use of unregulated new funerary methods, unless this has been a significant problem in practice. In our understanding, primary legislation could clarify that only funerary methods that are regulated by secondary legislation are permitted.

Don't know

Please share your views below:

See above.

Please share your views below:

See above.

Consultation Question 15.

No

Please share your views below:

No one should carry out, procure, or take part in any funerary method that is not regulated. In such cases, the offence should be treated in the same way as a cremation carried out outside the existing legislation. The penalty should therefore be neither less nor more severe than that for the offence of carrying out, procuring or taking part in a cremation except in accordance with cremation legislation. Increasing the penalty would create the impression that new funerary methods are inherently more dangerous than established practices, which is not necessarily the case.

Please share your views below:

See reply to question 15.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

New funerary methods initially incur no costs to the state, as they are often developed and provided by private operators. It is important, however, that these methods remain as financially accessible as other methods so that anyone who wishes to use them can do so.

From a social perspective, new methods and innovations are important because they are an expression of a changing funerary culture, they support individuality and personal choice in end-of-life arrangements. More and more people have new ideas about how they want their farewell to be conducted that differ from the traditionally available funerary methods, and offering a wider range of options makes it easier to honour these wishes.

Evidence from Germany supports this: Representative surveys from 2023 and 2024 commissioned by Stiftung Reerdigung shows that 27.4% of respondents, who have already made the decision, would choose terramation, 56.7% have a positive view of this method, and this rises to 70.5% when more options, such as burial in a forest, are available. 64.2% stated that all federal states in Germany should permit terramation. This demonstrates that offering a wider range of choices increases acceptance and engagement with alternative methods. (www.stiftung-reerdigung.de/projekte)

Moreover, discussions around new funerary methods encourage a more open and conscious engagement with personal preferences regarding end-of-life-care, death and remembrance. The availability of alternative methods not only enhances individual autonomy but also fosters greater societal awareness and acceptance of diverse ways to say farewell.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

There is no indication that the primary legislation for new funerary methods as outlined in the proposals would create advantages or disadvantages for any particular group. Traditional funerary methods remain fully available, so the proposals primarily expand options for those who wish to choose alternative methods, without limiting existing choices or any particular groups from accessing these new methods.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

Response ID ANON-P3FF-GRFV-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods
Submitted on 2025-09-04 23:29:05

About you

What is your name?

Enter your name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email address:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

N/A

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you would like your answer to remain confidential, please tell us why.:

N/A

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Consultation Question 1.

Yes

Please share your views below:

The wording is clear yet provides flexibility to cover a range of processes.

Consultation Question 2.

Please share your views below:

Not at this time.

Please share your views below:

Not at this time.

Chapter 3: Existing legislation and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Consultation Question 3.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Agreed, but would suggest that any new legislation should stipulate definitions of terminology to be used going forward, for all relevant legislation.

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Consultation Question 4.

Yes

Please share your views below:

All new funerary methods should have new definitions to ensure that people cannot become confused with existing methods.

Your consultation paper shows that several countries define 'human composting' as "the contained, accelerated conversion of human remains to soil". I believe this is an exceptionally clear definition of the process and should be recommended to be adopted should this funerary method be permitted in England and Wales.

There is also a definition of 'aquamation' reading "the disposal of a dead body through the use of water, alkaline chemicals, and heat" which I believe is another exceptionally clear definition and should also be recommended to be adopted should this funerary method be permitted in England and Wales.

Consultation Question 5.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Agreed, but new regulations will need to be formulated with input from the person / company / organisation who has developed the new method to ensure that they are fitting for the method and do not cause any undue constraints on the provision of the same, whilst ensuring the continued health and safety of the public and property.

Consultation Question 6.

Please share your views below:

I believe a combined approach, utilising a system of licencing and permitting, would prove to be the most effective option for each funerary method and provider (e.g. company, authority, and/or organisation). I also believe that there would need to be some form of qualification, perhaps something similar to a driving licence or a sector registration - as with nursing - for the individuals working within the facility.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Consultation Question 7.

Please share your views below:

Yes, I believe that primary legislation should expressly require the Government to have regards to the three principles proposed when making secondary legislation about any and all new funerary methods. The first and second principles are intrinsically linked, and are of utmost important. The third principle, preservation of human dignity, may be difficult to define but is also important to provide people with reassurance that their bodies, and/or the bodies of their deceased loved ones, will be treated appropriately and with care and respect.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9.

Please share your views below:

I believe having a consistent approach to offences regarding the disposal of the deceased would be appropriate, whichever option is chosen.

I wonder if, perhaps, consideration may need to be given to a variation in the level of penalty applied based on whether or not the body of the deceased is irretrievably disposed of as a result of any fraudulent or criminal activity, preventing further examination of the remains and/or the reprocessing of the body in a legal fashion. For example, if a body was incorrectly / illegally buried (per current definition) it could, theoretically at least, be exhumed for further examination and/or disposal with relatively minimal impact on the body. However if a body was cremated (per current definition) it could not be recovered and only the post process remains would be available. This would, perhaps, be more egregious dependent on the reason for the fraud / criminal activity, the religious beliefs of both the deceased and their family, and the deceaseds wishes for disposal of their body.

Consultation Question 10.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 11.

Yes

Please share your views below:

Please share your views below:

Medical implants which are not deemed to be hazardous, such as orthopaedic implants which, in the future, may be produced from different materials - for example 3D printed joint replacements, made from plastic. Non-hazardous in terms of the health of the patient but that would potentially cause issues during a disposal procedure, e.g. melting during the cremation process and adhering to the cremator equipment and/or the cremated remains which may damage the integrity of the equipment and prevent all of the remains being recovered following the cremation process.

Non-medical implants and personal possessions (which may bear similar risks to hazardous implants).

Clothing, footwear, bedding, etc. that the deceased may be dressed or contained in.

Make up and construction of any container used to hold the deceased, if that container is to be disposed of alongside the body.

Consultation Question 12.

Please share your views below:

Yes, I believe the power to make regulations should include the ability to make provision for approved trials of new funerary methods.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Consultation Question 13.

No

Please share your views below:

I have selected 'no' because I believe an explicit prohibition of this nature might preclude new funerary methods being trialled. If this would not preclude a trial, the legislation could perhaps include a phrase to reflect that, e.g. "with the exception of a licenced trial of potential new funerary methods".

Consultation Question 14.

No

Please share your views below:

I have selected 'no' because I believe an explicit prohibition of this nature might preclude new funerary methods being trialled. If this would not preclude a trial, the legislation could perhaps include a phrase to reflect that, e.g. "with the exception of a licenced trial of potential new funerary methods".

No

Please share your views below:

I have selected 'no' because I believe an explicit prohibition of this nature might preclude new funerary methods being trialled. If this would not preclude a trial, the legislation could perhaps include a phrase to reflect that, e.g. "with the exception of a licenced trial of potential new funerary methods".

Please share your views below:

I decline to comment on this one as I'm finding it difficult to understand

Consultation Question 15.

Yes

Please share your views below:

If the method used poses a risk to public health or safety and/or causes harm to public health or safety.

Please share your views below:

I believe this should depend on the level of risk and/or harm caused.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Consultation Question 16.

Please share your views below:

I do not believe I have any data or evidence for this.

Consultation Question 17.

Please share your views below:

I do not believe I have any data or evidence for this.

Consultation Question 18.

Please share your views below:

I do not believe I have any data or evidence for this.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent on: 04 September 2025 07:47:25
To: [bcnfm](#)
Subject: Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods

[REDACTED]

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in response to your consultation[1] on the legal framework for new funerary methods. I do so from the perspective of a Muslim, guided by Islamic principles and ethical convictions regarding the treatment of the deceased.

The two principal funerary methods detailed in the consultation are:

- 1. Alkaline hydrolysis** – uses water, alkaline chemicals, heat and pressure to break down the tissue of a deceased person into liquid, leaving bone fragments and teeth. The body, usually in a woollen shroud or other organic pouch, is placed into a vessel with a solution of the alkaline chemical, to which heat is applied. The process may use varying amounts of pressure and heat, which will have an impact on the time taken. Following this stage of the process, the pieces of bone and teeth which remain are dried out and may be ground to a powder.
- 2. Human composting** – converts human remains into soil through controlled decomposition. The body is placed in a steel vessel with organic materials like wood chips and straw. Through aeration and sustained warmth, microbial activity breaks down the body over 30 to 90 days, the body is rotated or agitated periodically to enhance decomposition. After decomposition, non-organic elements are removed, and bone fragments are ground and mixed into the resulting soil.

Dignity and Sanctity of the Human Body

In Islam, the human body is sacred both in life and after death. The deceased must be treated with the utmost respect, buried without delay, and returned to the earth in a way that upholds their dignity. This dignity is not symbolic—it is a lived moral duty.

Practices such as alkaline hydrolysis and human composting—however well-intentioned—violate these principles. To chemically dissolve the body, crush bones, or convert it into soil is not only undignified, but it also strips the body of its sanctity, reducing it to mere organic matter. Such practices reflect a troubling shift in societal values—a moral descent in how death and the human form are understood and respected.

Dignity in death demands that the human body be treated as more than organic matter to be processed. The proposed methods of alkaline hydrolysis and human composting undermine this principle in multiple ways:

- First, they industrialise the body. Alkaline hydrolysis places the deceased in a sealed steel pressure vessel, dissolving them in a caustic solution under heat and pressure — a mechanised “liquefaction” that feels closer to waste disposal than a rite of passage. Human composting involves placing the body in a container with wood chips and other organic matter, rotating or aerating it like garden waste. The visual and procedural parallels to municipal composting strip away the symbolic reverence traditionally afforded to the dead.
- Second, they result in the loss of gatherable remains. Both methods reduce the body to either a small quantity of bone fragments or soil. In many traditions, the ability to gather, view, and lay to rest the remains in a defined, protected place is central to mourning and remembrance. Instead, alkaline hydrolysis often discharges the resulting liquid into the wastewater system, and composted remains may be scattered or used in landscaping — erasing the boundary between human remains and ordinary matter.
- Third, they disrupt symbolic and ritual practices. Traditional burial allow for processions, graveside prayers, and the physical act of burial. These new methods often occur entirely behind closed industrial doors, depriving families of meaningful participation. Without a grave there is no fixed site for ongoing remembrance or intergenerational connection.

- Fourth, the language and framing used to promote these methods risks commodifying the deceased. Industry promotion often describes the body as “material” to be “recycled” or “repurposed,” sounding more like resource management than honouring a life. Euphemistic terms such as “gentle water process” or “soil transformation” can mask the reality of chemical dissolution or decomposition in a tumbler, which some see as disrespect through sanitised language.

- Fifth, there is potential for misuse. Composted remains could enter agricultural or commercial supply chains as fertiliser or calcium additives, blurring ethical lines about human remains in consumable goods. Once remains are in liquid or soil form, they can be moved, mixed, or disposed of without the same traceability or protection as a grave.

For Muslims, and for many others who believe in the sanctity of the deceased, such processes are deeply distressing. They disturb the living, undermine the mourner–deceased relationship, and add to the emotional burden of grief. Crushing or agitating the body, even mechanically, can cause depression or lasting distress for families.

These concerns are not exclusive to Muslims. They resonate with broader ethical traditions that recognise the body as more than biological matter. The deceased are not waste to be processed—they are individuals whose memory and form deserve respect.

Rights of the Deceased and Their Families

The deceased have rights, and so do their families. These include:

- The right to mourn without added distress.
- The right to bury according to faith.
- The right to ensure that the body is treated with respect.

Grieving is already a profoundly difficult time. Introducing methods that many find alien or disturbing will only add more challenges. For some, the thought of their loved one being dissolved or composted will not give solace—it will deepen their pain in contrast to the comfort derived from dignified rites.

The mourner–deceased relationship is the ongoing bond — emotional, symbolic, and especially for Muslims and faith communities the spiritual — that exists between a living person and someone who has died. It is one reason why the manner of body disposition matters so deeply. Practices that preserve a tangible, sacred, or visitable resting place can support this ongoing bond, while methods that erase physical traces or treat remains as waste risk severing or diminishing it.

Economics Must Not Trump Ethics – and the Illusion of Choice

Financial pressures are real, but they must never override the moral imperative to treat the dead with dignity. The consultation’s repeated reference to “choice” is, in this context, deeply flawed. While it is presented as expanding options for the bereaved, in reality, when burial is made prohibitively expensive, the range of options is already being artificially constrained.

If the cost of a traditional burial continues to rise—whether due to land scarcity, local authority charges, or other policy decisions—families are not exercising choice; they are being steered toward cheaper alternatives. When these alternatives are then presented with an environmental narrative, which I believe is flawed and incomplete[2], it offers a veneer of moral comfort[3] to those who, in truth, have been priced out of what they believe is the right and dignified course for their loved one. This is not genuine choice—it is economic coercion dressed as empowerment.

Such a framework will have a disproportionate impact on the less well-off, who will be forced to make decisions based on affordability rather than conviction. For those whose faith or conscience requires burial, this creates a distressing moral conflict: either incur financial hardship to uphold their principles, or compromise their beliefs to avoid debt. This is not only unjust—it is discriminatory in effect, as it penalises those whose religious or ethical commitments require specific rites.

If burial is to remain a protected and respected practice, it must be affordable and available to all, not a privilege reserved for those with the means to pay. Without this, the consultation’s appeal to “choice” risks

becoming a rhetorical device that masks structural inequality and erodes the rights of the deceased and their families.

There is a real risk that this creates conditions where remains are handled, processed, or even marketed in ways that are driven by profit motives, as if they were a product or raw material rather than a sacred human body.

Erosion of Sacrosanct Principles

I am concerned that the broader trajectory of society is eroding generally held sacrosanct principles. The current discussion around the Assisted Dying Bill is one example of this trend. In the context of funerary practices, we must remain conscious of three foundational principles:

- Respect for the body of the deceased.
- Protection of religious rites.
- Preservation and protection of cemeteries.

These must be upheld and entrenched—not weakened or sidelined in the name of efficiency, innovation or “choice”.

Muslim Engagement and Contribution

The fact that I and others from the Muslim community are responding to this consultation—as we have done with previous consultations—demonstrates positive engagement. The accusation often levelled at the Muslim community of being isolationist is far from the truth. Our approach is one of engaging, based on who we are, with the aim of the betterment of all.

Muslims have a positive contribution to make in the area of funerary practice and in defending the rights of the deceased. This contribution will benefit all communities and should be welcomed—not silenced. Unfortunately, too often Muslims have felt silenced whenever they have sought to contribute their views to public issues, and so are naturally cautious even on this one.

Having distinct views, practices, and beliefs is not an opportunity for division—it is a recognition of the right of communities to hold views and practices unique to them.

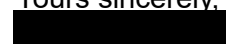
Recommendations

- Do not recommend alkaline hydrolysis or human composting.
- Ensure religious exemptions and protections are explicit.
- Reframe the narrative: death is not a disposal problem—it is a moment of profound human significance.
- Prioritise the development of new burial space and/or increase the availability of existing burial space.
- Safeguard against economic coercion by ensuring cost is never the deciding factor in whether a family can honour their loved one according to their beliefs.

We live in a society that has very little time for death, and increasingly sacrosanct issues are being eroded. As a Muslim, I cannot be a bystander in this situation. I welcome the opportunity that this consultation has provided and in fact see it as a responsibility—to be proactive in ensuring that burials are protected, dignity is preserved and mourning is honoured.

Thank you for considering this perspective.

Yours sincerely,



[1] <https://lawcom.gov.uk/project/new-funerary-methods/>

[2] Narrow focus on carbon footprint, but ignore other environmental impacts such as: Water usage in alkaline hydrolysis (thousands of litres per process), Chemical production and disposal impacts (alkaline chemicals require energy to manufacture and can have downstream effects if effluent is not perfectly treated), Energy inputs for heating, pressurising, or aerating vessels, and No full life-cycle analysis – Often the data compares only the disposal stage, not the environmental cost of building, maintaining, and eventually decommissioning the specialised facilities

[3] 'Green' as moral cover – The environmental case is sometimes used to make methods more socially acceptable, especially when cost pressures are the real driver. This risks presenting a false binary: that one must choose between environmental responsibility and traditional burial, when in fact sustainable burial options exist

CO-OP GROUP RESPONSE TO THE LAW COMMISSION CONSULTATION ON NEW FUNERARY METHODS



Chapter 1: About You (Introduction)

The Co-op is the UK's largest funeral provider, arranging around 93,000 funerals each year across our network of over 800 funeral homes. Alongside Co-op Funeralcare, our Life Services division includes Co-op Legal Services, the UK's largest regulated provider of wills and probate, and Co-op Insurance. Across the wider Group, we are a major retailer with over 2,400 food stores, a nationwide wholesale and franchise operation, and the Co-op Academies Trust, which educates more than 21,000 students. We employ over 54,000 colleagues and are present in every UK postal area.

Our Co-operative values mean we are committed to dignity, responsibility, and justice. Ensuring access to sustainable and dignified funerary options is not just desirable, it is essential – a question of respecting people's values, faith traditions, and environmental commitments.

Co-op Funeralcare has a direct interest in this consultation. In 2023, we announced plans to pioneer alkaline hydrolysis (aka "resomation" or "water cremation") in the UK – the first new funerary method proposed since the Cremation Act 1902. Due to the lack of regulatory clarity, we were forced to pause this ambition, despite clear demand from families for more sustainable options. This underlines the need for legal reform.

We welcome the Law Commission's work to establish a clear regulatory framework for new funerary methods, and we support its proposals. Our response draws on Co-op Funeralcare's expertise, wider Group insight and external evidence.

Chapter 2: What is a New Funerary Method?

Q1. We provisionally propose that a new funerary method is:

- 1. A process;**
- 2. Other than burial, cremation or burial at sea;**
- 3. That breaks down the body of a deceased person; and**
- 4. Which has the purpose of disposing of the body of a deceased person (and not, for example, the purpose of preserving or researching bodies).**

Do consultees agree?

Yes. We agree with the proposed definition. It is clear and future-proof, allowing for new methods to be developed and distinguished (such as alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction) from burial and cremation.

Clarity in the definition is essential. Our own experience demonstrates why: in 2023 we announced a UK pilot of alkaline hydrolysis but had to pause because the law offered no settled definition of whether this process should be treated as cremation or as something separate. Scotland faced similar challenges: although the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 anticipated regulation of alkaline hydrolysis, lack of clarity about its legal status has delayed progress despite consultation.

We therefore support a definition that is broad enough to cover all genuine body disposal processes. This will provide confidence to families, providers, and regulators, ensuring innovation does not outpace accountability.

Q2. Are consultees aware of any other significant developments or potential new funerary methods other than those mentioned?

While alkaline hydrolysis and natural organic reduction are clearly the key emerging methods and should be the focus of regulatory attention, we are aware of other ideas being discussed internationally. These include mushroom burial suits (brought to wider attention when actor Luke Perry chose one for his funeral), tree pod concepts such as Capsula Mundi, and promession (a freeze-drying technique). At present, none of these have gained real momentum or serious discussion in the UK, but they illustrate the broader trend of innovation in the sector and the importance of a framework that can adapt to future developments.

Public knowledge and awareness of these new disposal methods also remains low. Our research shows that while 89% of UK adults had not heard of alkaline hydrolysis, once explained, almost a third (29%) said they would choose it for their own funeral, and 18% said they would choose any eco-friendly method if it were available.¹ This indicates clear potential demand that will only grow as awareness of these new methods increases.

Chapter 3: Existing Legislation and New Funerary Methods in England and Wales

Q3. We provisionally propose that the requirements in legislation relating to death registration should be broadly the same for an approved and regulated new funerary method as for burial and cremation. Do consultees agree?

Yes. Death registration requirements must apply equally to ensure consistency, accuracy of records, and public confidence. All deaths, regardless of the disposal method chosen, must be properly recorded.

We would go further: the process for registering a death should also be the same whatever the method. Families and professionals should follow an identical sequence of certification, authorisation, and recording, whether the deceased is buried, cremated, or an alternative method is used. Current law unintentionally blocks new funerary methods because they cannot

¹ [Co-op announces biggest change to funerals in over 120 years: Resomation to be available in UK - Co-op](#)

be properly recorded; reform must remove this barrier and create one consistent process across all methods.

Chapter 4: Developments in Other Jurisdictions

(No specific questions for consultees.)

Chapter 5: An Overview of the Regulatory Framework

Q4. We provisionally propose that new funerary methods should be defined and regulated separately from existing funerary methods (rather than, for example, being included in the definition of cremation). Do consultees agree?

Yes. Separate regulation avoids confusion and allows tailored rules on environmental standards, facility requirements, and health protections.

Trying to stretch the existing definition of “cremation” to include alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction would be unsatisfactory. These methods use different processes, infrastructure, and safeguards, and therefore raise distinct regulatory questions. For example, alkaline hydrolysis produces a liquid effluent requiring specific environmental oversight, whilst natural organic reduction produces soil that must be regulated for safe and respectful use. Both are materially different from flame cremation and therefore should be defined and regulated separately.

It is also important that the words and phrases used in legislation and public communication do not confuse families. Alkaline hydrolysis is sometimes described as “water cremation”, yet most people understand cremation to mean heat and flames. Such terminology risks misleading the public. Public discussion about funerary methods has often avoided clear, accessible language, which can create confusion and a sense that everything takes place “behind a curtain.” Creating a distinct legal category for new methods is therefore not only right in regulatory terms, but also a chance to use clear, honest, and understandable wording that supports transparency and informed choice.

Defining new funerary methods separately also signals to families that these are genuinely new options, additional to burial and cremation. This supports informed decision-making and helps maintain confidence in the regulation of existing methods.

Q5. We provisionally propose that new legislation for the regulation of new funerary methods should contain a power to make regulations approving the use of specific new funerary methods and setting out how they should be carried out. Do consultees agree?

Yes. This is essential to future-proof the framework. It enables Government to approve and

regulate new methods as they emerge without requiring new primary legislation, including the ability to authorise time-limited trials of new methods (the benefits of which we explore later in this response).

Q6. We invite consultees' views on whether licensing should be part of the regulation of specific new funerary methods. Licensing would be in addition to secondary legislation approving the use of specific new funerary methods and setting out how they should be carried out.

Yes. Licensing would add accountability and public reassurance.

We believe licensing should be comparable to the approach taken with crematoria: rigorous inspection, high standards, and consistent oversight. Co-op supports equivalent safeguards across all methods so families can trust that whichever choice they make, the standards of dignity and care are the same.

However, any licensing scheme for new funerary methods should be considered in the context of the Fuller Inquiry's findings and its recommendation that the UK Government introduce a licensing scheme for funeral directors more broadly. Due consideration should also be given to the Scottish Government's plans in this space. It is important that regulation is coherent and avoids duplication.

We would be concerned if multiple overlapping licensing regimes were created and administered by different authorities, as this would add unnecessary cost and complexity for businesses like ours while doing little to improve public protection. A streamlined approach, aligning any licensing of new funerary methods with wider licensing reform for the funeral sector, would be far more effective and efficient.

As the UK's largest funeral provider, we already invest heavily in skills and professional standards, including apprenticeships for Funeral Team Members and drivers, and training in care of the deceased. A coherent licensing regime would build on these foundations and ensure a skilled, professional workforce for new methods.

Chapter 6: The Nature and Scope of the Regulatory Power

Q7. Should primary legislation expressly require the Government to have regard to the following principles when making secondary legislation about specific new funerary methods?

- 1. Protection of the environment**
- 2. Protection of public health and safety**

3. Preservation of human dignity

We also invite consultees' views on any further principles to which the Government should have regard when making secondary legislation about specific new funerary methods.

Yes – there should always be regard for the three principles outlined above.

Protection of the environment and protection of public health and safety: traditional flame cremation has a significant environmental footprint, with the release of toxic nitrogen oxides (NOx) into the atmosphere perhaps the most pressing concern for the practice. Industry figures suggest the average cremation releases around 500g of NOx²: pollutants which have rightly been the focus of both public health interventions and industrial innovation. Today's vehicles, for example, contribute roughly 70% fewer NOx emissions than those on the road in 2005.³ New funerary methods offer the opportunity for similar innovation in the Funeralcare industry. In addition to NOx, cremation releases mercury into the atmosphere, largely from dental amalgam. Although the volume of mercury emitted each year through cremation has fallen significantly over the last two decades, it has grown as a share of the country's total emissions. In 2022, crematoria were responsible for almost a quarter of England's mercury emissions.⁴

Alkaline hydrolysis, by contrast is claimed to produce no harmful airborne emissions.⁵ Funerals using the method can have a negligible impact on the environment – roughly seven times less than burial and only one third the impact of cremation, according to research supported by the Dutch Government.⁶ Similarly, while the true environmental impact of natural organic reduction is both variable and understudied,⁷ some providers estimate it can save around one tonne of CO₂ per funeral compared to conventional methods⁸. This emerging evidence base shows that new funerary methods can deliver substantial and robust benefits for both the environment and public health.

Any method of body disposal must preserve dignity and respect for the deceased. This principle should be non-negotiable and must sit at the heart of the regulatory framework. It is also what the public expect and assume – that whatever option they choose, the deceased will be treated with the same level of respect and care.

We would also propose an additional principle of transparency and informed choice. Government should consider embedding this as a guiding principle, with a clear expectation that

² Brookes, Tony. 2019. NOx in the City. *Pharos International* 85: 28–36

³ DEFRA. 2025. [Figure 7: UK annual emissions of nitrogen oxides by 2023 major emission sources: 1990, 2005, 2022 and 2023](#)

⁴ [UK Environment Agency. 2022. Pollution Inventory. H3: Emissions of mercury and persistent organic pollutants to the environment. Figure H3a: Emissions of mercury to air, land and water, England, 2016 to 2022](#)

⁵ [Resomation Ltd. 2007. Innovation in sustainable End of Life options: 3](#)

⁶ Keijzer & Kok. 2011. [TNO report Environmental impact of different funeral technologies.pdf](#)

⁷ [Lee Webster. 2024. NH Funeral Resources and Education. Green Burial Council](#)

⁸ [Recompose. Why is human composting more eco-friendly than burial or cremation?](#)

funeral directors and providers of new methods give families accessible, accurate information about each option. This would ensure that families can make informed decisions consistent with their values and beliefs.

Q8. We provisionally propose that primary legislation should specify that it is a criminal offence to do the following, in relation to the use of regulated new funerary methods:

(1) dishonestly make false representations to procure the use of a new funerary method, with a maximum penalty of, on summary conviction, an unlimited fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding the general limit in a magistrates' court, and, on indictment, a fine or two years' imprisonment; and

(2) procure or attempt to procure the use of a new funerary method with intent to conceal an offence or impede a prosecution, with a maximum penalty, on indictment, of a fine or five years' imprisonment.

Do consultees agree

We believe enforcement is necessary to give weight and authority to the new regulations, providing security and clarity to providers and enabling trust for service users. We support the introduction of criminal liability in these cases for this reason.

The specific criminal liabilities outlined in this question reflect those in the 1902 Cremation Act, so would put new funerary methods on a similar legal footing to cremation. This is important in this case, to provide reassurance to both funeral providers and clients that new practices will be performed for their intended purpose. Consistent enforcement across different practices should result in consistent compliance.

However, we would like to highlight that the law around new funerary methods more broadly does not need to mimic the Cremation Act for the sake of equivalence alone, given this law is more than 120 years old. This consultation is an opportunity to introduce modern legislation that reflects today's attitudes to death, bereavement and legacy.

Q9. We invite consultees' views on whether:

(1) primary legislation should provide that it is a criminal offence to carry out, procure or take part in regulated new funerary methods in contravention of legislation or other detailed regulation and, if so, whether a maximum penalty, on summary conviction (in magistrates' courts), of a fine at level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1,000) would be appropriate; or

(2) the Government should be given the power to create new offences in secondary

legislation of carrying out, procuring or taking part in regulated new funerary methods in contravention of legislation or other detailed regulation. Any secondary legislation made under this power should be subject to the affirmative resolution procedure. Please share your views.

We believe enforcement is necessary to give weight and authority to the new regulations; providing security and clarity to providers and enabling trust in new funerary methods for service users. We agree that legislation should provide that it is a criminal offence to carry out, procure or take part in regulated new funerary methods in contravention of legislation or other detailed regulation.

But we would like to clarify if and how this offence would apply to individuals and organisations. There could be a situation where an organisation has systems in place to meet the legislative requirements, but an employee doesn't follow them. The individual would be criminally liable. Equally, an organisation might be criminally liable if they've failed to implement adequate systems in the first place.

Comparable legal provisions are Regulations 19 and 20 of The Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 (FSHR). This also provides a due diligence defence. The proposed legislation in this question appears to outline a 'strict liability' offence. Will a 'due diligence defence' be available?

We would also suggest that a range of enforcement powers, including prosecution, should be available. The legislation could provide scope for prior enforcement actions such as limiting the ability to perform new methods or to trade. It is also important that the legislation takes into account providers of different sizes when deciding the nature of penalties.

Insofar as maximum penalties, we agree with the concerns raised by the Law Commission in paragraphs 6.64 to 6.72 of this consultation paper. It is difficult to comment on the appropriateness of a proposed maximum penalty without first knowing what will be contained in the detailed regulations. Therefore, we would agree with question 9(2): that *"the Government should be given the power to create new offences in secondary legislation of carrying out, procuring or taking part in regulated new funerary methods in contravention of legislation or other detailed regulation. Any secondary legislation made under this power should be subject to the affirmative resolution procedure."*

Where penalties are in place, government should ensure individuals and organisations are aware of their legal responsibilities. At The Co-op, we would take steps to ensure that all colleagues would be fully trained on and aware of the legal requirements relevant to their role and have adequate policies and procedures in place to maintain compliance. But there is a role for the public sector in supporting the industry to navigate any new legislation.

Q10. We provisionally propose that primary legislation should:

(1) require that the use of a new funerary method on the body of a deceased person must be registered; and

(2) stipulate that regulations made about specific new methods must set out how and by whom this registration must be carried out.

Do consultees agree?

Yes. Registration should be mandatory, with detailed rules for how and by whom it is carried out. This ensures continuity of records and public legitimacy.

Q11. Question 11. We provisionally propose that the power to make detailed regulation about new funerary methods should be broad enough to encompass the matters set out at paragraphs 6.85 to 6.119 of the Consultation Paper. Do consultees agree? We invite consultees' views on whether there are any other matters that may need to be included in detailed regulation of individual new funerary methods, beyond the matters set out in paragraphs 6.85 to 6.119 of the Consultation Paper. Responses to this question may include views on the potential content of detailed regulation of specific new funerary methods, although whether and how specific new funerary methods should be regulated will be a question for Government to address in future.

Yes. Regulations should cover operational standards, effluent handling, emissions, record-keeping, inspection, training, consumer information, and contingency planning. This aligns with our position in Scotland: that death management should operate on a standards basis, with equivalent safeguards whatever the method.

Q12. We invite consultees views of whether the power to make regulations should include the ability to make provision for approved trials of new funerary methods. Please share your views.

Yes. Approved trials are essential for innovation within the industry. There is currently limited scientific evidence relating to new funerary methods – an issue that has slowed their implementation in the UK and abroad⁹. Only by trialling new methods can providers establish their environmental impact, test whether they can be delivered safely and feasibly, and ensure they uphold dignity for the deceased.

In 2023, Co-op announced plans to pioneer resomation in the UK but had to pause due to lack of legal clarity. Without provision for controlled trials, providers cannot generate the evidence

⁹ [Health Council of the Netherlands. 2022. *Admissibility of New Techniques of Disposing of the Dead: Advisory Report*. page 22.](#)

needed to inform regulation, reassure the public, or build the confidence required for wider adoption.

Trial provisions would allow innovation under strict oversight, producing the robust UK-based data required to:

- Measure environmental outcomes (e.g. carbon savings, emissions reductions, energy use).
- Confirm safety and public health protections (e.g. effluent handling, sterilisation, soil quality).
- Gather consumer insight into how families perceive and experience the method.
- Test operational standards and training requirements for staff.
- Determine whether the new funerary method is a viable and sustainable option going forwards.

Comparable approaches are common in other sectors. For example, new medicines are trialled before approval, innovative transport technologies (such as autonomous vehicles) operate under controlled pilot licences, and the Financial Conduct Authority uses a “[regulatory sandbox](#)” where new products and services are tested under supervision before full regulation is introduced. Funerary methods should be treated in the same way: approved, time-limited pilots would provide a practical and proportionate way to introduce innovation responsibly, while upholding public trust and regulatory confidence.

Chapter 7: The Status of Non-Regulated Methods

Q13. We provisionally propose that primary legislation should explicitly prohibit the use of a new funerary method which has not been regulated. Do consultees agree?

Yes. Only regulated methods should be lawful. This protects families, maintains standards, and prevents unqualified operators from offering unsafe or misleading services.

This position also links directly to the discussion on criminalisation above: if the use of an unregulated method is explicitly prohibited, then anyone who undertakes it should be subject to appropriate criminal sanctions. This ensures the framework has real force, deters misconduct, and reinforces public confidence that new funerary methods will only ever be offered safely and legally.

Q14. We provisionally propose that:

(1) it should be a criminal offence to procure or take part in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated; and

(2) to be guilty of the offence of procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated, the defendant must:

- (a) know that they are procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method; and**
- (b) know that the new funerary method is not regulated.**

Do consultees agree?

We provisionally propose that:

(1) it should be a criminal offence to carry out a new funerary method which is not regulated; and

(2) to be guilty of the offence of carrying out a new funerary method which is not regulated, the defendant must know that they are carrying out a new funerary method.

Do consultees agree?

We invite consultees' views on whether:

(1) there should be a corresponding fault element as to regulation, such that, to be guilty of the offence of carrying out a new funerary method which is not regulated, the defendant must either know that the new funerary method is not regulated or be reckless as to whether the new funerary method is regulated; or

(2) there are any reasons that would justify having no fault element for this part of the offence, so a person can be guilty even if they do not know that the new funerary method they are carrying out is not regulated and are not reckless as to whether the new funerary method is regulated.

Please share your views

We broadly agree that criminal offences are appropriate to deter unregulated activity, but our position is limited to certain elements of the proposal:

- On procuring or taking part in an unregulated new method: Yes, we agree this should be a criminal offence, but only where the person knowingly procures or takes part in such activity. This protects families who may not be aware of the regulatory status of a method and ensures they are not inadvertently criminalised.
- On carrying out an unregulated new method: Yes, we agree this should be a criminal offence, and here the responsibility must rest squarely with professionals. Ignorance of the law by a professional or provider cannot be a defence. If an operator offers a new funerary method without ensuring it is regulated, they should be liable.

- On the “fault element” options (recklessness or strict liability): We do not provide a detailed view on whether recklessness should suffice or whether strict liability should apply. Our concern is simply that liability must not fall on families or other innocent actors, while professionals must be held to account for compliance.

This approach deters deliberate misconduct, protects families, and makes clear that professionals are responsible for compliance.

Q15. Question 15: We provisionally propose that the maximum penalty for the offence of carrying out, procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated should be more severe than for the offence of carrying out, procuring or taking part in a cremation except in accordance with cremation legislation (a fine at level 3 on the standard scale, currently £1,000).

We invite consultees’ views on whether the maximum penalty for the offence of carrying out, procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated should include a period of imprisonment.

We believe enforcement is necessary to give weight and authority to the new regulations; providing security and clarity to providers and enabling trust in new funerary methods for service users. Sanctions need to be in place to promote compliance. We strongly agree that the offence of carrying out, procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated should be penalised.

We do not take a view on the nature of this penalty and whether it should be greater than that of taking part in a cremation that does not follow appropriate legislation. This is a matter for lawmakers to decide. However, we believe it is important that consideration is given to steps that can be taken prior to enforcement (such as limiting the ability to perform new methods or to trade). It is also important that the legislation takes into account providers of different sizes when deciding the nature of penalties.

Where penalties are in place, government should ensure individuals and organisations are aware of their legal responsibilities. At The Co-op, we would take steps to ensure that all colleagues would be fully trained on and aware of the legal requirements relevant to their role and have adequate policies and procedures in place to maintain compliance. But there is a role for the public sector in supporting the industry to navigate any new legislation.

Chapter 8: Impacts of the Proposals

Q16. We invite consultees to provide data and evidence-based views on the likely impacts (economic and social) of the provisional proposals in the consultation paper. This may include data and evidence from other jurisdictions.

We do not have robust UK trial data because our planned resomation pilot in 2023 could not proceed due to lack of legal clarity. However, drawing on our own research, market knowledge, and interpretation of international experience, we can share the following:

- Consumer demand (evidence): our own research shows that while public awareness of alkaline hydrolysis remains very low (89% of adults had not heard of it), once explained almost a third (29%) said they would choose this funerary method for their own funeral, and 18% said they would choose any eco-friendly option if it were available. This is clear evidence of latent demand that would grow as awareness increases.
- Environmental (likely impacts): traditional funerary methods such as burial and cremation carry a significant environmental footprint, from carbon emissions to land use pressures and mercury emissions. By contrast, emerging alternatives such as alkaline hydrolysis and natural organic reduction appear to have far lower impacts and to offer genuine opportunities for decarbonisation and more sustainable land use.
- Economic (likely impacts): new methods would require upfront investment in infrastructure, but this would also stimulate innovation, create skilled jobs, and over time is likely to generate affordable alternatives. There is potential for alkaline hydrolysis to be cost-competitive or even cheaper than existing options, improving access for families on lower incomes.
- Social (likely impacts): a clear regulatory framework will avoid grey areas, build trust, and reassure communities that all methods are safe and dignified. Embedding dignity, transparency, and informed choice will be essential to securing public confidence.

Taken together, while further UK-specific trial data is needed, there is already strong evidence of consumer demand and a clear case that the wider economic, environmental, and social impacts of enabling new funerary methods are likely to be positive.

Q17. We invite consultees to tell us if they believe or have evidence or data to suggest that any of our provisional proposals could result in advantages or disadvantages to certain groups, whether or not these groups are protected under the Equality Act 2010.

Whilst further evidence would be valuable as new funerary methods are developed and introduced, based on our own research and market knowledge, we believe the likely benefits to groups are as follows:

- Environmental justice: more sustainable options for all communities.
- Faith groups: traditional burial and cremation remain available. Some communities may not accept new methods, but choice is expanded, not restricted.

- **Affordability:** new methods could improve long-term affordability of funerals, helping low-income families.
- **Inclusion:** accessible information (in multiple languages, disability-friendly formats, Welsh language) and fair rollout across regions must be built in.

We are not aware of any disadvantages at this stage to any particular groups.

Where local authorities arrange funerals, they should make reasonable efforts to respect the known wishes of the deceased, including preferences about method of disposal.

Q18. Impacts specific to Wales

We expect the same benefits as in England. Consistency is essential. With Wales' strong sustainability agenda, new methods may resonate particularly well with public policy priorities. Co-op would ensure services are offered bilingually in English and Welsh.

Conclusion

The Co-op Group strongly supports the Law Commission's proposals. Reform is overdue. A clear, modern framework will:

- provide choice and dignity for families
- deliver sustainable alternatives to meet environmental responsibilities
- safeguard public health and trust
- enable future-proof, evidence-based innovation.

As the UK's largest funeral provider, we are ready to work with Government to introduce and trial new funerary methods responsibly. Every family deserves the right to choose a funeral option that reflects their values, beliefs and loved ones wishes. Updating the framework that allows for the legislation of new funerary methods to enable this is essential.

LAW COMMISSION CONSULTATION ON NEW FUNERARY METHODS

RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL LAW SOCIETY

About the Ecclesiastical Law Society

The Ecclesiastical Law Society exists to promote the study of ecclesiastical and canon law particularly in the Church of England and those churches in communion with it. Amongst its activities, the Society:

- puts on a programme of conferences and lectures bringing together lawyers, clergy and others who are interested in the area;
- produces the Ecclesiastical Law Journal, a peer-reviewed periodical published by Cambridge University Press which disseminates news of legislation, court judgments and relevant publications as well as authoritative articles of historical, legal and contemporary interest;
- convenes working parties to consider specific areas of law which concern today's Church;
- has direct input into the training of clergy and laity in legal matters;
- awards academic prizes.

Its membership includes a wide range of those interested in ecclesiastical and canon law including archdeacons and other clergy, diocesan chancellors and diocesan registrars and academics.

Introduction to the response to the consultation

This response to the Law Commission's June 2025 consultation on New Funerary Methods is provided by a working party of the Ecclesiastical Law Society. The working party consists of 6 specialist practitioners in the area of ecclesiastical law¹.

¹ The working party consists of:

Matthew Chinery, Solicitor, Head of Legal Services of the Church in Wales, former diocesan registrar.

Louise Connacher, Solicitor, Partner at Lupton Fawcett LLP, Registrar of the Province and Diocese of York and of the Diocese of Sodor and Man.

Frank Cranmer, Fellow of St Chad's College, Durham, and an honorary Research Fellow at the Centre for Law & Religion, Cardiff School of Law and Politics.

Professor Mark Hill KC, Barrister, Distinguished Global Professor at University of Notre Dame, London; Visiting Professor at King's College London and adjunct professor at Pretoria University and Notre Dame University, Sydney; Distinguished Fellow at Emory University, Atlanta; Chancellor of the Dioceses of Chichester, Leeds and Europe and author of *Ecclesiastical Law*.

Darren Oliver, Solicitor, Partner Winckworth Sherwood LLP, Registrar of the Province of Canterbury, Registrar of the Dioceses of Oxford and Chichester.

Ian Blaney, Solicitor, Partner Lee Bolton Monier-Williams LLP, Registrar of the Dioceses of Derby and Lincoln, Deputy Registrar of the Faculty Office of the Archbishop of Canterbury, author of Atkins Court Forms volume on *Ecclesiastical Law*, Encyclopaedia of Forms and Precedents volumes *Ecclesiastical Law* and *Burial and Cremation*, and Honorary Editor of Halsbury's Laws volume on *Cremation and Burial*.

The views expressed in this response are those of the working party rather than the trustees of the Society or the membership as a whole. Equally, the views expressed are not necessarily the views of the organisations in which the members of the working party hold office or which they represent. However, the working party's expert knowledge should be taken into consideration as important for implementing law reform, bearing in mind the circumstances of those churches and the state of the law that pertains to them.

General comments

We commend the Law Commission for its scholarly and thoughtful analysis of the law of disposal of the dead in relation to new funerary methods and for its practical recommendations.

Aside from the working party's specific replies to questions in the consultation paper it would wish the following to be taken into account:

The position in the Church of England

The ecclesiastical law of the Church of England is predicated on the practice of burial and cremation being the only methods of disposal of the deceased (save burial at sea). As matters presently stand, should new funerary methods come into use, it cannot be assumed that the existing provisions for the burial of human remains in churchyards of the Church of England and in consecrated portions of local authority cemeteries, nor the provisions for the taking of funerals, would apply. If a new funerary method were found to be consistent with Christian teaching and practice, it is likely that the ecclesiastical law would need to be amended to recognise the new practice. Alternatively, the Church could refuse to accept the new practice, but the families of those deceased whose bodies had gone through a new funerary method might be denied access to funerals and burials in the Church. This is not primarily a matter for the Law Commission, but we think it appropriate to explain the consequential effect on the Church of England and the ecclesiastical law. Our main message is to emphasise the importance of any new funerary method achieving the same level of regulation as cremation, so that if and when the Church makes consequential changes to ecclesiastical law by making amending new canons and promoting church measures, it has the scaffolding of a distinct legislative regime for new funerary methods to which to refer and interact with. For that reason, we are supportive of the Commission's proposal for primary and secondary legislation that gives legal authority to any new funerary method which is based on the existing regime for cremation.

The following legislative and other provisions are given as examples of what might be relevant:

- A person who has a **right of burial in the churchyard** or other burial ground of a parish has a right to have his or her cremated remains buried there (s 88(2) Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018) (this is the modern provision which extends the common law right for a body of a parishioner, and others with a legal qualification to be buried in the churchyard, to the cremated remains of such a person).

- Subject to certain exceptions it is the **duty of every minister to bury**, according to the rites of the Church of England, the corpse or ashes of any person deceased within the minister's cure or of any parishioners or persons whose names are entered on the church electoral roll of his parish whether deceased within the minister's cure or elsewhere that is brought to a church or burial ground or cemetery under the minister's control in which the burial or interment of such corpse or ashes may lawfully be effected, due notice being given (Canon B38(2)) and cremation of a dead body is lawful in connection with Christian burial (Canon B38(3)).
- The Church of England will need to consider whether the **common law duty to bury** would cover human remains which are the product of a new funerary method or whether it should be so extended to those remains. The legal duty was extended in the case of cremated remains. Note that, initially, in the Cremation Act 1902 section 11 provision was made that an incumbent not be required to bury the cremated remains of a parishioner, which provision was later repealed and is now covered by a positive obligation to bury such remains.
- Cremated remains may be buried in **churchyards or burial grounds closed for burials** pursuant to the grant of a faculty (s 88(3) Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018).
- A person who does not have a right of burial in the churchyard or other burial ground of a parish may not be buried there, or have his or her cremated remains buried there, without the **consent of the minister of the parish** (s 88(4) Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018).
- When a body is to be cremated, **the burial service** may precede, accompany, or follow the cremation; and may be held either in the church or at the crematorium (Canon B38(4)(a)).
- The ashes of a cremated body should be reverently disposed of by a minister in a churchyard or other burial ground in accordance with [section 3 of the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure 1992]² or on an area of land designated by the bishop for the purpose of this sub-paragraph or at sea (Canon B38(4)(b)).
- For the avoidance of doubt, the bishop of a diocese may **consecrate land in the diocese for the sole purpose of the burial of cremated remains** (s88(6) Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018).
- A **funeral service at a crematorium** or cemetery shall be performed only in accordance with directions given by the bishop (Canon B38(7)).
- **Fees for services** at crematoria or in churches or at the graveside following cremation and for the burial of cremated remains in a churchyard are fixed by law (see the annual Parochial Fees Order, a statutory instrument made under the Ecclesiastical Fees Measure 1986, which itself is predicated on only burial and cremation being permitted methods of disposal).

² This provision has been repealed but the modern provision is in the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018. Basically, the ashes must be disposed of in a churchyard or other burial ground, or in a closed burial ground by authority of faculty.

- The churchyard regulations made by the chancellor of each diocese under the provisions of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018 will be framed on the basis that the **memorialisation of the dead** will follow the burial of a corpse or the cremated remains of a named deceased person.
- Liturgically, the current **authorised burial rites** (those contained in the *Book of Common Prayer* and *Common Worship*) may not embrace new funerary methods.
- A crematorium may not be sited on consecrated ground of a burial authority (Cremation Act 1902 s 5).

The position in the Church in Wales

Some of the considerations above in relation to the Church of England would apply, in a more limited fashion, to the Church in Wales. In relation to burial grounds subject to the Welsh Church (Burial Grounds) Act 1945, it is likely to be necessary to amend either the Act, or the Rules made under s 4 of the Act to give clarity on how rights of burial apply to human remains which are the product of a new funerary method. If amendment to the Act is necessary, following disestablishment the Church itself has no means of effecting this itself.

The position in other Churches

It is likely that the internal rules of other Christian churches will be based on the proposition that the only lawful methods of disposal are burial and cremation.

In the case of the Catholic Church, the churches of England and Wales are bound by the Code of Canon Law (*Codex Iuris Canonici 1983*) of the universal church. It and other trans-national churches may not be able or willing to alter their canons or internal rules to reflect the domestic law in the United Kingdom and to permit new funerary methods to be used by their faithful.

It is also likely that some individual burial grounds held by Christian churches will be subject to trusts that presume that the burial of the dead in those grounds will be the burial of a corpse or ashes, and therefore it may not be possible in such places for the remains following some other funerary method to be buried.

Parallels with cremation

In giving legal authority to the practice of cremation and instituting a new regulatory framework, the Cremation Act 1902 made various changes to the then existing law which then became a recognised regime which was picked up in later legislation. The Law Commission might consider which of these provisions ought to be in prospective legislation to authorise and regulate new funerary methods, including:

- Section 6 of the Cremation Act 1906 empowered burial authorities to take a donation of land for the purpose of a crematorium, and a donation of money or other property for enabling them to acquire, construct or maintain a crematorium. Should such similar power be given in relation to facilities for new funerary methods?

- Section 11 of the Cremation Act 1902 [now repealed] was a conscience clause for clergy of the Church of England when requested to bury remains which had resulted from what was then a new funerary method, cremation. Such a clause might be required, if it were considered that a minister might have a common law duty that would be at odds with his or her theological scruples.
- Section 13 of the Cremation Act 1902 applied the provisions of the Cemeteries Clauses Act 1847 to the disposition or interment of the ashes of a cremated body, as if it were the burial of a body. This meant that cemeteries set up under that Act were able to receive cremated ashes as they had the burial of bodies. Should a similar provision be needed for new funerary methods?
- For the purposes of the establishment and maintenance of local authority cemeteries, the governing regime in the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 defines “burial” as including the interment of cremated human remains but not by implication remains resulting from new funerary methods.
- Article 5(6) of that 1977 Order empowers a burial authority, at the request of a particular denomination or religious body, to prohibit the interring or scattering of cremated human remains in or over a part of the cemetery set apart for their use - but not remains from a new funerary method.
- Article 10(6) of that 1977 Order provides that “No body shall be buried, or cremated human remains interred or scattered, in or over any grave or vault in which an exclusive right of burial for the time being subsists except by, or with the consent in writing of, the owner of the right” - but no such prohibition exists for other forms of human remains, such as a liquid resulting from the dissolution of bodily fats during alkaline hydrolysis.
- Other examples can doubtlessly be found by combing through the legislation for the burial of the dead.

Consultation Question 1.

See paragraph 2.29 of the Consultation Paper.

We provisionally propose that a new funerary method is: (1) a process; (2) other than burial, cremation or burial at sea; (3) that breaks down the body of a deceased person; and (4) which has the purpose of disposing of the body of a deceased person (and not, for example, the purpose of preserving or researching bodies). Do consultees agree?

Broadly, yes, although (3) and (4) are to a certain extent overlapping.

Consultation Question 2.

See paragraph 2.87 of the Consultation Paper.

Are consultees aware of any other significant developments with the processes mentioned in paragraphs 2.39 to 2.85 of the Consultation Paper?

No.

Are consultees aware of any other potential new funerary methods, other than those mentioned in paragraphs 2.39 to 2.85 of the Consultation Paper?

No.

Consultation Question 3.

See paragraph 3.68 of the Consultation Paper.

We provisionally propose that the requirements in legislation relating to death registration should be broadly the same for an approved and regulated new funerary method as for burial and cremation. Do consultees agree?

Yes, we agree that the requirements for new funerary methods achieve an equivalence with burial and cremation. Specifically, there should be an equivalence with cremation, as that involves a specifically intensive method to break down the body, which can be compared with alkaline hydrolysis and human composting. The justifications include:

- There are obvious **forensic consequences** to such destructive processes which mean that without equivalent regulation including a requirement that the disposal be registered and certified, bodies might be disposed of improperly.
- It gives **certainty** to the person effecting the burial that they are burying the remains of a **specific person**.
- It gives personal **representatives** and next of kin some certainty of the process involved.
- It **helps prevent improper practices** by the person effecting the disposal which could give rise to a loss of public trust and confidence. We give two examples of where this has happened in the past. Neither deals with a new funerary method, but they show a failure of regulation can lead to public concern.
 - (a) Legacy Independent Funeral Directors in Hull which involved a failure to properly care for and process a large number of bodies and cremated remains meaning that next of kin struggled to salvage the remains of the deceased.
 - (b) Tuam Mother and Baby Home in County Galway, Ireland where a failure to keep proper records and the disposal of the remains of infants and young children in unmarked graves has made it impossible to understand precisely whose remains are buried there and whether the deaths occurred naturally or whether there was any foul play.

Consultation Question 4.

See paragraph 5.56 of the Consultation Paper.

We provisionally propose that new funerary methods should be defined and regulated separately from existing funerary methods (rather than, for example, being included in the definition of cremation). Do consultees agree?

Due to uncertainty around which funerary methods will be permitted, this would appear to be sensible. Once these practices become more understood, it could be subsumed into an

integrated consolidated system of law including cremation. In the meantime we need to be able to distinguish between the existing system of cremation and new funerary methods. This is particularly important for the Christian churches which may already refer to burial and/or cremation and the Cremation Act in their laws and regulations.

Consultation Question 5.

See paragraph 5.70 of the Consultation Paper.

We provisionally propose that new legislation for the regulation of new funerary methods should contain a power to make regulations approving the use of specific new funerary methods and setting out how they should be carried out. Do consultees agree?

Yes.

Consultation Question 6.

See paragraph 5.84 of the Consultation Paper.

We invite consultees' views on whether licensing should be part of the regulation of specific new funerary methods. Licensing would be in addition to secondary legislation approving the use of specific new funerary methods and setting out how they should be carried out.

They are novel methods so this may be necessary. Additionally, the practice of disposing of dead bodies is highly sensitive and requires sufficient supervision so that public trust and confidence can be maintained. It is difficult to give a conclusive answer to this without knowing what methods might come to be approved and so this may be a matter for the secondary legislation to determine - but we suspect that licensing will be required at least initially.

Consultation Question 7.

See paragraph 6.51 of the Consultation Paper.

Should primary legislation expressly require the Government to have regard to the following principles when making secondary legislation about specific new funerary methods?

- (1) Protection of the environment.
- (2) Protection of public health and public safety.
- (3) Preservation of human dignity.

Broadly, yes, although is to "have regard" a strong enough requirement? Perhaps "must follow" or words to that effect would be better.

Is "preservation of human dignity" too vague and require additional wording? Should it not be a reference to the principle that **human remains should always be treated with dignity and respect**. This is one of the principles expressed in the Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England's publication *Guidance for Best Practice for the treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England* (2nd edition, 2017).

See paragraph 6.52 of the Consultation Paper.

We also invite consultees' views on any further principles to which the Government should have regard when making secondary legislation about specific new funerary methods.

We would query whether **forensic certainty** should be a principle when human remains result from the process. I.e. that any new funerary method that leads to discernible human remains be conducted in a way that such remains can be identified as having come from a specific deceased person. This would help in the case of subsequent burial to determine that the burial is of a specific person and in the case of family disputes, that the remains in question are from the deceased rather than someone else. Also in the case of malfeasance by the operator of the funerary process or in a case where the operator has become insolvent or has otherwise ceased to trade, it would be easier to identify and salvage remains which have been improperly handled.

Consultation Question 8.

See paragraph 6.72 of the Consultation Paper.

We provisionally propose that primary legislation should specify that it is a criminal offence to do the following, in relation to the use of regulated new funerary methods: (1) dishonestly make false representations to procure the use of a new funerary method, with a maximum penalty of, on summary conviction, an unlimited fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding the general limit in a magistrates' court, and, on indictment, a fine or two years' imprisonment; and (2) procure or attempt to procure the use of a new funerary method with intent to conceal an offence or impede a prosecution, with a maximum penalty, on indictment, of a fine or five years' imprisonment. Do consultees agree?

We agree that a significant deterrent is required and appropriate and should be equivalent to the cremation regime. We do not offer a corporate comment on the appropriateness of imprisonment; but the threshold for custodial penalties is a point of general public law policy.

Consultation Question 9.

We invite consultees' views on whether: (1) primary legislation should provide that it is a criminal offence to carry out, procure or take part in regulated new funerary methods in contravention of legislation or other detailed regulation and, if so, whether a maximum penalty, on summary conviction (in magistrates' courts), of a fine at level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1,000) would be appropriate; or (2) the Government should be given the power to create new offences in secondary legislation of carrying out, procuring or taking part in regulated new funerary methods in contravention of legislation or other detailed regulation. Any secondary legislation made under this power should be subject to the affirmative resolution procedure.

It is best jurisprudential practice for the offence and sanction to be in the primary legislation. The offence and sanction should be equivalent to cremation regime.

Consultation Question 10.

See paragraph 6.81 of the Consultation Paper.

We provisionally propose that primary legislation should: (1) require that the use of a new funerary method on the body of a deceased person must be registered; and (2) stipulate that regulations made about specific new methods must set out how and by whom this registration must be carried out. Do consultees agree?

Yes, this is important and similar safeguards as those that exist in the cremation regime should be modelled. **If a minister is to bury the remains of a deceased person whose body has been broken down by a new funerary method, that minister needs to know (i) whose remains they are burying and (ii) what process was used.**

Consultation Question 11.

See paragraph 6.120 of the Consultation Paper.

We provisionally propose that the power to make detailed regulation about new funerary methods should be broad enough to encompass the matters set out at paragraphs 6.85 to 6.119 of the Consultation Paper. Do consultees agree?

Yes, regulation does need to cover such matters as location of premises, and inspection of premises. Each method will have its own health, environmental and public nuisance considerations which need to be addressed in regulations. Processes involving dead bodies can be controversial and even taboo so a consideration such as where an installation which is breaking down human bodies is sited will be a matter of public concern requiring attention under detailed regulation.

See paragraph 6.121 of the Consultation Paper.

We invite consultees' views on whether there are any other matters that may need to be included in detailed regulation of individual new funerary methods, beyond the matters set out in paragraphs 6.85 to 6.119 of the Consultation Paper. Responses to this question may include views on the potential content of detailed regulation of specific new funerary methods, although whether and how specific new funerary methods should be regulated will be a question for Government to address in future.

The following matters may require attention:

- How consent of personal representatives is to be certified (this interrelates with the Law Commission's other project *Rights and obligations relating to funerary methods, funerals and remains*). The equivalent regime in cremation should be considered.
- That remains are properly identifiable/tagged and traceable to a deceased person. This is the practical aspect of the principle of forensic certainty that we raised earlier in our response.

Consultation Question 12.

See paragraph 6.126 of the Consultation Paper.

We invite consultees' views on whether the power to make regulations should include the ability to make provision for approved trials of new funerary methods.

Yes. Trials would have to take place under the auspices of regulation for the public interest reasons given elsewhere in the paper which apply to a substantive regime. From a Christian perspective it might be important that such trial to consider whether the disposal process captures the disposal of the whole body and does not leave more than a minimal residue or disperse the remains more widely. This has an importance for the service of committal where mourners are saying "goodbye" to earthly remains.

Consultation Question 13.

See paragraph 7.14 of the Consultation Paper.

We provisionally propose that primary legislation should explicitly prohibit the use of a new funerary method which has not been regulated. Do consultees agree?

Yes.

Consultation Question 14.

See paragraph 7.45 of the Consultation Paper.

We provisionally propose that: (1) it should be a criminal offence *to procure or take part in* the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated; and (2) to be guilty of the offence of procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated, the defendant must: (a) know that they are procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method; and (b) know that the new funerary method is not regulated.

Do consultees agree?

Yes but clarification needs to be given as to what "take part" means to prevent ordinary mourners from being caught in this offence.

See paragraph 7.46 of the Consultation Paper.

We provisionally propose that: (1) it should be a criminal offence to carry out a new funerary method which is not regulated; and (2) to be guilty of the offence of carrying out a new funerary method which is not regulated, the defendant must know that they are carrying out a new funerary method. Do consultees agree?

Yes.

See paragraph 7.47 of the Consultation Paper.

We invite consultees' views on whether: (1) there should be a corresponding fault element as to regulation, such that, to be guilty of the offence of carrying out a new funerary method which is not regulated, the defendant must either know that the new funerary method is not regulated or be reckless as to whether the new funerary method is regulated; or (2) there are any reasons that would justify having no fault element for this part of the offence, so a person can be guilty even if they do not know that the new funerary method they are

carrying out is not regulated and are not reckless as to whether the new funerary method is regulated.

It is essential that there be a fault element which includes recklessness.

Consultation Question 15.

See paragraph 7.48 of the Consultation Paper.

We provisionally propose that the maximum penalty for the offence of carrying out, procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated should be more severe than for the offence of carrying out, procuring or taking part in a cremation except in accordance with cremation legislation (a fine at level 3 on the standard scale, currently £1,000). Do consultees agree?

Yes.

See paragraph 7.49 of the Consultation Paper.

We invite consultees' views on whether the maximum penalty for the offence of carrying out, procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated should include a period of imprisonment.

We agree that a significant deterrent is required and appropriate and should be equivalent to the cremation regime. We do not offer a corporate comment on the appropriateness of imprisonment; but the threshold for custodial penalties is a point of general public law policy.

Consultation Question 16.

See paragraph 8.9 of the Consultation Paper.

We invite consultees to provide data and evidence-based views on the likely impacts (economic and social) of the provisional proposals in the Consultation Paper. This may include data and evidence from other jurisdictions.

We have no comment.

Consultation Question 17.

See paragraph 8.16 of the Consultation Paper.

We invite consultees to tell us if they believe or have evidence or data to suggest that any of our provisional proposals could result in advantages or disadvantages to certain groups, whether or not these groups are protected under the Equality Act 2010.

We have no comment.

Consultation Question 18.

See paragraph 8.18 of the Consultation Paper.

We invite consultees to provide data and evidence-based views on the likely impacts of the provisional proposals in the Consultation Paper that are specific to Wales.

The interment of human remains created by a new funerary method in a burial ground subject to the Welsh Church (Burial Grounds) Act 1945 would likely require at least a revision to the Rules issued under s4(2) of that Act, which would require the approval of the Welsh Ministers. If rights of burial under that Act are to extend to human remains that are the product of a new funerary method, it may be that the Act itself requires revision.

END

NAFD – New Funerary Methods consultation submission

The National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD) represents more than 3,800 funeral homes across the entire spectrum of funeral directing businesses, including independent and family-owned firms, co-operatives and large providers, as well as international firms and suppliers to the sector.

NAFD welcomes the Law Commission's work on new funerary methods, and is pleased to respond to this consultation. This consultation addresses some very important issues, including the pertinent question of licensing of any new methods. This will complement the ongoing work into the regulation of funeral directors (which is excluded from the scope of this project) and form an important part of an overhauled death management pathway, which should seek to better protect both deceased and bereaved people, enhance choice, and improve transparency at every stage.

Chapter 1

What is your name?

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD)

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

On behalf of the organisation

What is your email address?

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

[REDACTED]

Chapter 2: What is a new funerary method?

Q1. We provisionally propose that a new funerary method is:

(1) a process;

(2) other than burial, cremation or burial at sea;

(3) that breaks down the body of a deceased person; and

(4) which has the purpose of disposing of the body of a deceased person (and not, for example, the purpose of preserving or researching bodies).

Do consultees agree?

Yes, NAFD agrees with the proposed definition.

Q2. Are consultees aware of any other significant developments with the processes mentioned in paragraphs 2.39 to 2.85 of the Consultation Paper?

NAFD is not aware of any other significant developments, other than those mentioned in paragraphs 2.39 to 2.85 of the Consultation Paper.

Are consultees aware of any other potential new funerary methods, other than those mentioned in paragraphs 2.39 to 2.85 of the Consultation Paper?

NAFD is not aware of any other potential new funerary methods, other than those mentioned in paragraphs 2.39 to 2.85 of the Consultation Paper.

Chapter 3: Existing and new funerary methods in England and Wales

Q3. We provisionally propose that the requirements in legislation relating to death registration should be broadly the same for an approved and regulated new funerary method as for burial and cremation.

Do consultees agree?

Yes. Death registration requirements must be applied equally to all methods. To apply more, or less stringent death registration requirements to new funerary methods, would be to risk creating a two-tiered system between traditional funerary methods and new ones.

Chapter 5: An overview of a regulatory framework

Q4. We provisionally propose that new funerary methods should be defined and regulated separately from existing funerary methods (rather than, for example, being included in the definition of cremation).

Do consultees agree?

Yes. It seems appropriate to define new funerary methods separately from existing ones, as they are distinctly different processes with varying environmental and infrastructure requirements.

NAFD considers that the use of existing terms could be helpful in terms of public reassurance and familiarity – for example, alkaline hydrolysis is often referred to as *water cremation* – however the

descriptions of new funerary methods must also be accurate. Using this same example, if *cremation* refers only to flame cremation, then new funerary methods like alkaline hydrolysis should be defined separately in the interests of accuracy and transparency.

Q5. We provisionally propose that new legislation for the regulation of new funerary methods should contain a power to make regulations approving the use of specific new funerary methods and setting out how they should be carried out.

Do consultees agree?

Yes. This approach seems appropriate to provide a legal framework for regulating new funerary methods.

Q6. We invite consultees' views on whether licensing should be part of the regulation of specific new funerary methods. Licensing would be in addition to secondary legislation approving the use of specific new funerary methods and setting out how they should be carried out.

As noted in the consultation paper, to introduce licensing for new funerary methods would mark a significant change from current regulation of burial and cremation in England and Wales, further distinguishing them from traditional methods, which do not currently require a 'licence' as such. Therefore having the details of any possible licensing scheme ahead of its introduction would be absolutely vital, and any significant developments on this matter should be subject to public consultation.

NAFD is concerned that introducing a licensing scheme solely for new funerary methods risks potentially creating an unequal operating environment, between burial and cremation authorities who offer traditional funeral methods only (therefore requiring relevant environmental permits but no 'licence'), and providers of new funerary methods, who would require a licence (and possibly environmental permits too) to offer these specific new services.

NAFD has considered the detail set out in paragraphs 6.16 to 6.24 of the consultation paper, regarding the protection of the environment and the applicability of the existing environmental permitting scheme for traditional methods, and how this scheme could be extended/replicated with new funerary methods. While there are many differences to consider, regarding the processes and requirements of new and traditional funerary methods, NAFD reiterates its concerns about extending licensing to new funerary methods only.

A licensing scheme might offer increased public confidence, which is an important consideration, however, implementing a licensing scheme for new funerary methods only, and leaving traditional methods unchanged, could unintentionally impact consumer behaviour under this lens of accountability and public confidence. There is a need for public confidence across the board, regardless of funerary method. Licensing could contribute to that public confidence, however, it must not create a two-tier system of funerary methods. NAFD is also supportive of consideration being given to the merits of harmonising standards across the UK, with regard to the licensing powers currently available in Scotland under the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016.

It is also worth considering how to ensure that adding a licensing aspect to the process will not disproportionately increase the administrative and financial burden for bereaved people, in addition

to giving consideration as to who might administer the licensing scheme and what its potential costs might be to providers and consumers.

Chapter 6: The nature and scope of the regulatory power

Q7. Should primary legislation expressly require the Government to have regard to the following principles when making secondary legislation about specific new funerary methods?

(1) Protection of the environment.

(2) Protection of public health and public safety.

(3) Preservation of human dignity.

NAFD is supportive of these principles being enshrined in primary legislation, as a safeguard for future funerary methods that are yet to be invented.

We also invite consultees' views on any further principles to which the Government should have regard when making secondary legislation about specific new funerary methods.

NAFD is supportive of principles that ensure informed consumer choice, and transparency of services and standards.

Q8. We provisionally propose that primary legislation should specify that it is a criminal offence to do the following, in relation to the use of regulated new funerary methods:

(1) dishonestly make false representations to procure the use of a new funerary method, with a maximum penalty of, on summary conviction, an unlimited fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding the general limit in a magistrates' court, and, on indictment, a fine or two years' imprisonment; and

(2) procure or attempt to procure the use of a new funerary method with intent to conceal an offence or impede a prosecution, with a maximum penalty, on indictment, of a fine or five years' imprisonment.

Do consultees agree?

Don't know. NAFD considers that any new legislation regarding criminal offences involving new funerary methods must consider these criminal offences to be on an equal legal footing to those involving traditional funerary methods. NAFD recognises the Law Commission's work on burial and cremation law, and in the context of this work to ensure the law is fit for purpose, supports the introduction of primary legislation that considers criminal offences involving new funerary methods to be just as serious as those involving traditional methods.

NAFD would appreciate clarity on how these suggested criminal offences might apply to organisations and to individuals.

Q9. We invite consultees' views on whether:

(1) primary legislation should provide that it is a criminal offence to carry out, procure or take part in regulated new funerary methods in contravention of legislation or other detailed regulation and, if so, whether a maximum penalty, on summary conviction (in magistrates' courts), of a fine at level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1,000) would be appropriate; or

(2) the Government should be given the power to create new offences in secondary legislation of carrying out, procuring or taking part in regulated new funerary methods in contravention of legislation or other detailed regulation. Any secondary legislation made under this power should be subject to the affirmative resolution procedure.

The approach detailed in suggestion two appears sensible.

As with the previous question, NAFD would appreciate clarity on how the first suggested offence might apply to organisations and to individuals – for example, under this suggestion, could a situation arise whereby an organisation could be criminally liable for the actions of an individual employee?

Q10. We provisionally propose that primary legislation should:

(1) require that the use of a new funerary method on the body of a deceased person must be registered; and

(2) stipulate that regulations made about specific new methods must set out how and by whom this registration must be carried out.

Do consultees agree?

Yes. This approach seems appropriate.

Q11. We provisionally propose that the power to make detailed regulation about new funerary methods should be broad enough to encompass the matters set out at paragraphs 6.85 to 6.119 of the Consultation Paper.

Do consultees agree?

Yes. NAFD agrees that the power to make detailed regulation about new funerary methods should be broad enough to encompass the matters set out at paragraphs 6.85 to 6.119 of the Consultation Paper.

We invite consultees' views on whether there are any other matters that may need to be included in detailed regulation of individual new funerary methods, beyond the matters set out in paragraphs 6.85 to 6.119 of the Consultation Paper. Responses to this question may include views on the potential content of detailed regulation of specific new funerary methods, although whether and how specific new funerary methods should be regulated will be a question for Government to address in future.

NAFD would welcome the opportunity for future public consultation on potential content of detailed regulation of specific new funerary methods.

Q12. We invite consultees' views on whether the power to make regulations should include the ability to make provision for approved trials of new funerary methods.

This approach seems sensible. However, this power should not apply retrospectively, in order to avoid stifling ongoing activity, research and development, or criminalising any previous activity. There must be a clear commercial pathway to allow for research and development into future new funerary methods, prior to approved trials, without undermining regulations on their use.

Chapter 7: The status of non-regulated new funerary methods

Q13. We provisionally propose that primary legislation should explicitly prohibit the use of a new funerary method which has not been regulated.

Do consultees agree?

Don't know. NAFD is supportive of measures that ends the legal ambiguity that has, to-date, surrounded the potential (il)legality of new funerary methods. Additionally, it is right that standards are regulated, and that the disposal services provided are safe and fit for use.

However, NAFD questions whether the outright prohibition of any non-regulated funerary methods is the right approach, when considering less traditional funerary methods. Could such methods, like at home burial, be prohibited under such legislation? It is essential to balance the choice of bereaved people with protection of the public, and the principles listed in Q7 of this consultation.

Additionally, it is essential that there is a clear commercial pathway for research and development into new funerary methods, prior to reaching the point of being ready to trial a new method.

Q14. We provisionally propose that:

(1) it should be a criminal offence to *procure or take part* in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated; and

(2) to be guilty of the offence of *procuring or taking part* in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated, the defendant must:

(a) know that they are procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method; and

(b) know that the new funerary method is not regulated.

Do consultees agree?

This approach seems sensible.

We provisionally propose that:

- (1) it should be a criminal offence to *carry out* a new funerary method which is not regulated; and**
- (2) to be guilty of the offence of *carrying out* a new funerary method which is not regulated, the defendant must know that they are carrying out a new funerary method.**

Do consultees agree?

This approach seems sensible.

We invite consultees' views on whether:

- (1) there should be a corresponding fault element as to regulation, such that, to be guilty of the offence of *carrying out* a new funerary method which is not regulated, the defendant must either know that the new funerary method is not regulated or be reckless as to whether the new funerary method is regulated; or**
- (2) there are any reasons that would justify having no fault element for this part of the offence, so a person can be guilty even if they do not know that the new funerary method they are carrying out is not regulated and are not reckless as to whether the new funerary method is regulated.**

NAFD is generally supportive of the need to have criminal offences as a deterrent and as method of sanction, but NAFD is also clear that liability must not fall on those who are unknowing.

Q15. We provisionally propose that the maximum penalty for the offence of carrying out, procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated should be more severe than for the offence of carrying out, procuring or taking part in a cremation except in accordance with cremation legislation (a fine at level 3 on the standard scale, currently £1,000).

Do consultees agree?

Don't know. It is important that appropriate sanctions are in place, and NAFD considers that this proposal could serve as a deterrent from carrying out, procuring or taking part in the use of an unregulated funerary method, however, the maximum penalty being greater for new funerary methods than for cremation could suggest that offences regarding traditional methods are less serious in the eyes of the law.

We invite consultees' views on whether the maximum penalty for the offence of carrying out, procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated should include a period of imprisonment.

Don't know.

Chapter 8: The impact of our provisional proposals

Q16. We invite consultees to provide data and evidence-based views on the likely impacts (economic and social) of the provisional proposals in the Consultation Paper. This may include data and evidence from other jurisdictions.

NAFD does not have data of its own to share, but is aware of other respondents to this consultation who hold relevant data.

Q17. We invite consultees to tell us if they believe or have evidence or data to suggest that any of our provisional proposals could result in advantages or disadvantages to certain groups, whether or not these groups are protected under the Equality Act 2010.

NAFD considers the importance of religious and cultural requirements, in addition to socioeconomic status, in needing to ensure that new funerary methods and prices are accessible to as many people as possible.

NAFD also considers the need for Local Authorities to look at providing these new funerary methods in their arranging of public health funerals, if available, as some methods will be unsuitable per some religious requirements.

Q18. We invite consultees to provide data and evidence-based views on the likely impacts of the provisional proposals in the Consultation Paper that are specific to Wales.

NAFD is not aware of any Wales-specific impacts, and while NAFD is supportive of the harmonisation of standards across the UK, NAFD recognises that this area of law is devolved to the Welsh Government.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent on: 12 June 2025 19:03:39
To: [bcnfm](#)
Subject: Composting burial

[REDACTED]

I would like to be composted so please make this happen soon

Regards
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent on: 16 June 2025 10:11:16
To: [bcnfm](#)
Subject: My Input On Funerary

[REDACTED]

Hi
I just have a little input on the new funerary methods.
I am responding due to me trying to protect the environment from one of the new methods

New-Funerary-Method:

Alkaline Hydrolysis:

This method of burial is worse than jumping from the frying pan to a gigantic fire, water is life and this method of burial will destroy humanity.

Alkaline Hydrolysis will contaminate the water system, although it is quick in comparison to other methods which will be attractive to the funeral industry.

Of the new methods that is under consideration Terramation is the better option it gives us all the dignity that comes with putting a person to rest and allow friends and family to grieve and contemplate the deceased person in such a way that is natural.

No longer will vast areas of land be tied up for many decades with traditional burial, but with Terramation this could all change, and reduce the amount of wastage of our present burial methods.

Terramation

Terramation also opens up such opportunities for the funeral services to build a productive environment to allow people to grieve and pay their respect to their loved ones.

If only the funeral industry can see what a gift Terramation is to them, nutrient rich soil in which trees can be planted to form a forest of remembrance that can be harvested, when those who have been laid to rest are no longer remembered.

They can build their facilities on greenbelt land and create new forest, which would create areas of tranquillity, peace, and areas where people can pay their respect.

This method could also have health benefits for the well-being of people who are going through depression, by giving them somewhere they can contemplate their future.

Think about it Terramation is win-win without a doubt which also supports all the efforts towards repairing the planet.

Sorry but the long form of the Law Commission is not for me.

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent on: 03 September 2025 16:30:15
To: [bcnfm](#)
Subject: Ymgynghoriad ar Ddulliau Angladdol Newydd

[REDACTED]

Parthed: Ymateb i'r Ymgynghoriad ar Ddulliau Angladdol Newydd

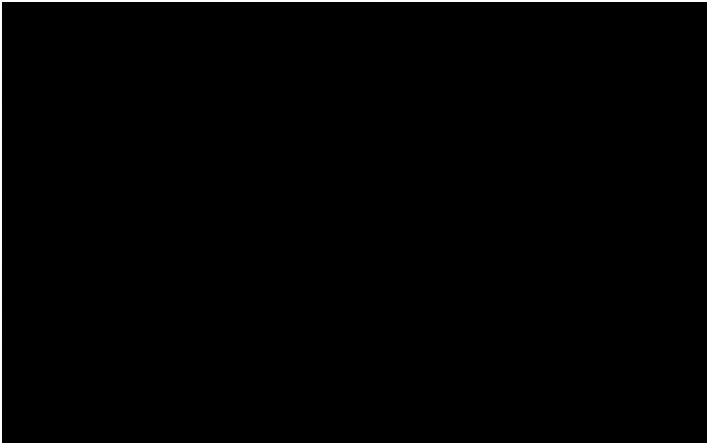
Rwy'n ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad hwn ar ran etholwr sydd wedi cysylltu â mi ynghylch dulliau angladdol newydd. Mae fy etholwr yn teimlo'n gryf bod angen mwy o ddewis o ddulliau angladdol, y tu hwnt i'r dulliau sefydledig o gladdu, amlosgi a chladdu ar y môr.

Mae fy etholwr yn arbennig o gefnogol i gompostio dynol sydd, yn ei farn ef, yn ddull sy'n gyfeillgar i'r amgylchedd ac yn ddiogel ac y dylid ei ganiatáu yng Nghymru a Lloegr, gyda'r rheoleiddio priodol ar waith a chan ystyried diogelwch y cyhoedd ac egwyddorion urddas dynol.

Rwy'n deall nad yw'r Comisiwn yn edrych ar y mathau o ddulliau angladdol newydd a ddylai fod ar gael yng Nghymru a Lloegr, ond yn hytrach yn edrych ar y fframwaith deddfwriaethol sy'n angenrheidiol ar gyfer rheoleiddio dulliau newydd. Rwyf felly yn edrych ymlaen at weld argymhellion y Comisiwn.

Diolch.

[REDACTED]



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1 September 2025

To Law Commission

Burial legislation – New methods

Thank you for notifying us of the second stage of your consultation into Burial Law and the document pack at <https://lawcom.gov.uk/project/new-funerary-methods>

We do not believe there are fundamental objections from our broader membership to considering new funerary methods, specifically “alkaline hydrolysis” and “human composting”. A lot of your current consultation is technical and administrative, relating more to the operation of the funeral industry. This will not greatly impact our members, the Friends groups of cemeteries. However, like cremation, any new method will still produce remains that need to be put somewhere, and will still need a building of some sort to do it in, both matters of direct interest to us.

We hope that other “natural” burial methods, like sky burial, are not being considered explicitly or implicitly, even in the name of respecting other cultural practices and diversity! (See Question 14)

Therefore we think that Question 4 and Question 7 are most relevant to our membership. They ask if there are parallels with cremation or if there should be any broader considerations such as environment, health or dignity.

We think the issues break down into three main areas:

- The location of any building or facility for the processing of the deceased
- The place used for placing the remains, whether buried, scattered or stored
- The opportunities that legislation for the adoption of new methods might offer

Location of facilities (Question 4)

As regards the building where the new method of disposal take place, care needs to be taken to ensure a dignified approach is taken. We see this with cemeteries that have attached crematoria: even in sites where the burial space is limited or very expensive, crematoria offer a source of income that helps to support the operation of the whole site. They are important in ensuring the long-term viability of many sites.

We also note the current cremation legislation has had the effect of encouraging crematoria to be sited away from centres of population, in landscaped and well-tended grounds. We think this has been beneficial for the sacred approach to disposal, and for the environmental benefits that arises from setting aside a sacred space for this purpose.

However we can conceive that a disparity could arise unless any new legislation replicates Section 8 of the 1902 Cremation Act, that forbids construction of a crematorium within 50 yards of a highway or within 200/100 yards of dwellings. In the earlier consultation we stated we wish to keep these siting rules for crematoria, which have resulted in crematoria being built in dignified locations, sometimes inside old chapels giving them a new lease of life. But we hope that any new legislation would not provide a loophole whereby it is possible to build another type of disposal facility in a place where a regular crematorium would be forbidden.

Although cremation is typically a secular process, the Act's distance rule established a boundary between the sacred space preserved for rituals, worship and respect of the deceased and separated it from the profane world outside. Although the Anglican and Catholic faiths now accept cremation, many other denominations and religions never have. Their concerns remain valid to this day. And despite the rise of secularism and direct cremation, it is clear that British society remains sensitive and sentimental over the "proper" and "respectful" treatment of the dead.

Canon law is outside the scope of this consultation but there will likely be influences across the legal systems. We note that there is also a potential discordance with Faculty Law that forbids the construction of crematoria on consecrated ground. So, if new types of disposal facilities were to be permitted, we would expect that Ecclesiastical Measures would be updated for consistency unless there was very good reason to do otherwise.

We would not want to encourage another situation whereby a developer attempts to work around legislation that forbids building a crematorium on a consecrated burial ground. Developers should not see this as an opportunity to propose a new type of facility that bypasses existing regulations.

We previously noted that there are nonetheless issues with Section 8 of the 1902 Act, as it does not prevent the construction of a crematorium in inappropriate areas such as an industrial estate. With the rise of low-cost "direct cremation", it is only a matter of time before we see this happen. Likewise, we would hope that any location rules for a new type of facility ensure that industrial back alleys sites cannot be considered.

The use of such light industrial units for the temporary storage of corpses and ashes was recently highlighted by the scandal at Legacy Independent Funeral Directors in Hull. The Police there received reports of "concern for care of the deceased" in Legacy's industrial factory unit. But doubtless, these cheap and scruffy out-of-the-way units would be the sort of site considered by some if locations were unregulated.

Dignified disposal (Question 7)

Both methods discussed produce a residue which must be disposed of properly.

We expect that any new disposal method would have to consider the current set of environmental and health regulations and standards as a matter of course.

However, there are poorly-defined standards for "dignity".

A significant number of remains processed according to these new methods will still be expected to go into burial grounds, scattering lawns or columbaria. Hydrolysis will produce cremulated remains, much like the ashes of a conventional cremation. Composting will produce a more fertile greener residue that includes cremulated remains. We should expect that any rules that govern the burial, scattering or storage of such processed remains should be equivalent to cremated remains in this respect.

Canon law considers the decency and reverence of disposal of cremation ashes, and in 1951 the Convocation of York noted: ... *the ashes of a cremated body should be disposed of in consecrated or dedicated ground. This may be done*

- (a) by burial;*
- (b) by strewing them reverently on the surface of the ground and covering them lightly with earth;*
- (c) by enclosing them, after obtaining the necessary faculty, in a part of the church or other consecrated building set apart for the purpose.*

*To scatter ashes broadcast on either consecrated or unconsecrated ground without covering them is a method which may be unseemly or irreverent and cannot be recommended.*¹

The Convocation considered “strewing” ashes with a light covering of earth to be more dignified than simply “scattering” on top of the soil. It seems that “human compost” would more closely fit their description of strewn remains, and thus could be easier to place in consecrated ground in a dignified manner. Although strewn cremated ashes (e.g. cremulated bone) will eventually disperse into the soil after a long period, faculty law does not consider this to be ephemeral: it remains as a permanent consideration when it comes to exhumation requests.

However, modern society is more secular and cremated remains are often not placed in formal burial grounds. It is not uncommon to walk on favoured beauty spots and observe the traces of scattering of ashes. As well as the “profane” nature of these sites, the custodians of SSSI often explicitly forbid this practice, as ashes can compromise the quality of soil and special grasslands.²

There are also anecdotal reports of ashes being dug into gardens. Current law relies on restrictions to be written into the house deeds to protect any remains and inform the subsequent purchasers of the property. This potentially devalues a house, and our observation is that the deeds cannot be relied on to record this fact. New owners may not find out until too late “there shall be in that *rich* earth a *richer* dust concealed”, to use the words of Rupert Brooke. Or the house may be sold by the executors of an estate, leaving descendants who later become upset to find that a favourite tree was cut down, which had been planted with their family member.

The use of secular space for the placing of remains gives rise to a broader philosophical question about the treatment of secular places now considered sacred by “those in the know”. Lessons can be learned from cemetery managers about the long-term management of these ephemeral remains. They often sell (unconsecrated) memorial benches and memorial rose bushes: as they age and

¹ For a fuller discussion of the issues around scattering and strewing see Petchey Ch in [2025] ECC Swk 2. This is one of many instances of the Consistory Court ruling on requests to exhume cremated remains.

² We suggest the Law Commission ensures that it contacts the National Parks for their views on the matter.

decay, at some point the difficult decision has to be made to remove the items and terminate the agreement. This often results in appeals from upset relatives. Hence these items are normally sold for a fixed period, such as 10, 20 or 25 years, before they are re-sold and replaced. But can similar time-limited principles apply to places used for ashes or human compost, where a tree may live for 500 years? Should they be written into the deeds? Can such ground never be redeveloped or should it remain hallowed ground forever? Should these places be time-limited in alignment with the periods set in any grave re-use legislation?

We might reasonably expect that a new method such as composting, with its more natural-looking residue, will expand the temptation to place such human remains in unregulated domestic or public places. Any green space could become an unofficial cemetery, much more than is the case now. Human compost *may* prove to be environmentally harmless, and thus could remain unregulated from an environmental perspective. But conversely we could see more instances where poorly-considered scatterings lead to long-term family problems and disputes. Instead of using formal burial grounds, public spaces could start to become sacred spaces. Should the MoJ have an oversight role here? Should there be laws or restrictions that forbid the placing of human remains outside a formal regulated space?³ The Registration of Burials Act 1864 requires Burial Registers to be kept for all burials in England, but this is not enforced or particularly practical in these individual cases where unlicensed places are found for unauthorised scattering.

Opportunities

Given the considerations noted above, the introduction of hydrolysis or composting would seem to offer more choice and be more environmentally sensitive than carbon-intensive cremation or traditional burial. The introduction of composting would seem to offer the most opportunities for an ecological funeral. There is also the carbon-friendly benefit of methods that support a no-dig approach, which therefore releases no embedded carbon from the soil.

The introduction of a new hydrolysis or composting facility in the grounds of an existing cemetery may offer a new revenue stream, encouraging greener funerals and so help to preserve existing burial sites.

Many Victorian cemeteries have two chapels: often one or both have been closed up with uncertain prospects. If the technology allows and the legislation is sympathetically-structured, some of these problematic chapels may become sites for investment with new facilities inside. If the environmental impact requirements were accommodating, it may enable these chapels to house a new facility, offering a future for these problematic and abandoned places.

Supporting these new processes could also widen the adoption of “natural burials”. These currently focus on the decomposition of buried remains, although this is not zero-impact; skeletal remains will remain and only degrade over the very long term, limiting the scope for later re-use. With its combination of cremulated bone and compost, composting might offer a more environmentally-

³ Elsewhere, such as Germany, burial is more heavily-regulated and generally restricted to public cemeteries or designated burial sites like columbaria. Private burials on personal property are not permitted. While scattering ashes in designated areas or at sea is sometimes allowed, keeping ashes at home is illegal.

sensitive approach towards sacred/secular “burials”. This could be managed by taking a “common grave” approach, whereby unrelated remains could be repeatedly strewn on the same place without the need to dig. There would be no limit to the capacity of such a cemetery. This could leave less impact for future generations and provide more opportunities for re-use.

As an aside, we note that there is growing demand for crematoria for pets and horses, etc. These sites should throw up much the same issues, and hopefully any new legislation that supports human funerals would not unduly penalise the adoption of new methods there.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NFCF

The National Federation of Cemetery Friends is CIC that brings together a network of heritage- and conservation-minded voluntary groups working for the protection, research, care and promotion of historic burial grounds. It has a membership of more than 130 Cemetery Friends groups and Associates across the UK.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent on: 09 September 2025 12:50:29
To: [bcnfm](#)
Subject: Submission to New Funerary Methods consultation | Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales
Attachments: New Funerary Methods consultation response - Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.docx (37.04 KB)

[REDACTED]

Dear whom it may concern,

I hope this finds you well.

With sincere apologies for the delay and in the hope that it might still be acceptable and helpful towards the consultation process, please find attached a response to the New Funerary Methods consultation on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

We have included our responses in red lettering under the relevant questions, including 'N/a' where we do not believe we have anything helpful to say at this stage.

Thank you very much in advance for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to be in touch if we can be of any further assistance or if there are any issues with our consultation response, and please accept our sincere apologies for the delay.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales](#)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

www.cbcew.org.uk

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Consultation Question 1

9.1 We provisionally propose that a new funerary method is:

- (1) a process;
- (2) other than burial, cremation or burial at sea;
- (3) that breaks down the body of a deceased person; and
- (4) which has the purpose of disposing of the body of a deceased person (and not, for example, the purpose of preserving or researching bodies).

Do consultees agree?

We accept these definitions for the purpose of this consultation.

Consultation Question 2

9.2 Are consultees aware of any other significant developments with the processes mentioned in paragraphs 2.39 to 2.85 of this Consultation Paper?

9.3 Are consultees aware of any other potential new funerary methods, other than those mentioned in paragraphs 2.39 to 2.85 of this Consultation Paper?

N/a.

Consultation Question 3

9.4 We provisionally propose that the requirements in legislation relating to death registration should be broadly the same for an approved and regulated new funerary method as for burial and cremation. Do consultees agree?

We agree that the requirements in legislation relating to death registration should be broadly the same for approved and regulated new funerary methods. This is important to uphold the dignity of the deceased person and will serve to reduce distress to family and friends of deceased people by providing peace of mind through more reliable record keeping.

Consultation Question 4

9.5 We provisionally propose that new funerary methods should be defined and regulated separately from existing funerary methods (rather than, for example, being included in the definition of cremation). Do consultees agree?

We agree. Given the significant procedural differences between traditional and emerging funerary methods, especially the substantial differences between the practice of cremation and the practices of alkaline hydrolysis and human composting, separate definitions and regulatory frameworks are necessary for clarity and effective oversight.

Consultation Question 5

9.6 We provisionally propose that new legislation for the regulation of new funerary methods should contain a power to make regulations approving the use of specific new funerary methods and setting out how they should be carried out. Do consultees agree?

The Catholic Church of England and Wales does not wish to seek to affect the funerary practices of non-Catholics, so long as they align with principles of public health and safety, environmental protection and the promotion of human dignity and the common good. As a result, we would not oppose the creation of a new legislative power to approve and regulate the use of specific new funerary methods.

At the same time, we would like to share the perspective of the Catholic Church on the specific new funerary methods in question, both to inform the consultation process and to draw attention to the fact that different communities of faith may accept but not necessarily endorse alternative funerary practices.

Although there is no official Church teaching specifically addressing the new funerary methods of alkaline hydrolysis and human composting, certain elements of these methods appear to conflict with core Catholic beliefs about the dignity of the human person and the reverence due to the body after death. The Catholic Church teaches that the cremation of the body must result in the ashes being laid to rest in a sacred place, such as a graveyard, a church or a certain area which has been designated by the relevant ecclesial authority for such purpose.¹ On the grounds of respect for bodily remains and reverence for the Catholic belief in the immortality of the soul and the resurrection of the body, the Catholic Church opposes the scattering of ashes and the preservation of ashes in mementos, jewellery or other unsuitable objects.

¹ See: Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, [*Instruction Ad resurgendum cum Christo regarding the burial of the deceased and the conservation of the ashes in the case of cremation*](#) (October 2016) 4.

These same principles would seem to be undermined by the processes of these newer funerary practices. After alkaline hydrolysis, although the remnants of bones can be preserved and placed in an urn, the majority of the body is dissolved in an alkaline solution. This liquid residue is typically treated as waste and disposed of through sewer systems or similar means. Such handling of human remains appears incompatible with the Church's insistence on respect and reverence for the body, and there does not appear to be any practical or respectful method for preserving and burying this portion of the remains alongside the solid fragments. We would imagine that many people would have similar concerns, even if not grounded in the faith of the Catholic Church.

Similarly, in human composting, the body is combined with organic matter and decomposed to form compost. This resulting material is often spread in gardens, forests, or other natural settings.

Although we do not seek to prevent the rest of the community from engaging in these newer funerary practices, and indeed support the appropriate regulation of such practices, we would like to highlight that such practices do not meet the standards of respect for human dignity expected of funerary practices within the Catholic community.

Consultation Question 6

9.7 We invite consultees' views on whether licensing should be part of the regulation of specific new funerary methods. Licensing would be in addition to secondary legislation approving the use of specific new funerary methods and setting out how they should be carried out.

N/a.

Consultation Question 7

9.8 Should primary legislation expressly require the Government to have regard to the following principles when making secondary legislation about specific new funerary methods?

(1) Protection of the environment.

(2) Protection of public health and public safety.

(3) Preservation of human dignity.

9.9 We also invite consultees' views on any further principles to which the Government should have regard when making secondary legislation about specific new funerary methods.

We support the inclusion of all three proposed principles as requirements on Government in such instances: it is appropriate that they are laid out in primary legislation. In particular, the preservation of human dignity should be treated as fundamental. Catholic teaching affirms that every person is created in the image and likeness of God and that the body, even after death, is to be treated with reverence. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: “The bodies of the dead must be treated with respect and charity, in faith and hope of the Resurrection”.² Moreover, the preservation of human dignity is a foundational characteristic of the common good to allow for the flourishing of all in our pluralistic society.

We would also emphasise the importance of respecting the religious and cultural beliefs of the deceased and their families as an additional guiding principle in legislation, as long as it does not conflict with the other three principles. This would seem appropriate given the weight given to religious belief in the Equality Act (2010) and other associated legislation.

Consultation Question 8

9.10 We provisionally propose that primary legislation should specify that it is a criminal offence to do the following, in relation to the use of regulated new funerary methods:

(1) dishonestly make false representations to procure the use of a new funerary method, with a maximum penalty of, on summary conviction, an unlimited fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding the general limit in a magistrates’ court, and, on indictment, a fine or two years’ imprisonment;

and

(2) procure or attempt to procure the use of a new funerary method with intent to conceal an offence or impede a prosecution, with a maximum penalty, on indictment, of a fine or five years’ imprisonment. Do consultees agree?

The Church would support provision to discourage individuals from dishonestly making false representations or to procure the use of a new funerary method with intent to conceal an offence or impede a prosecution. This is important to uphold the dignity of the deceased, and clear records can provide reassurance for their family and friends and help them to feel supported in their grief. Transparency in this process is essential to maintaining trust and respect between institutions carrying out these new funerary methods and the families they serve. These provisions align with Catholic moral teaching on honesty, justice, and respect for the deceased. We make no comment on the specific penalties as these are a matter for lawmakers, but the principle of accountability for improper or illegal actions regarding human remains is consistent with Catholic teaching.

² See: [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#) 2300.

Consultation Question 9

9.11 We invite consultees' views on whether:

(1) primary legislation should provide that it is a criminal offence to carry out, procure or take part in regulated new funerary methods in contravention of legislation or other detailed regulation and, if so, whether a maximum penalty, on summary conviction (in magistrates' courts), of a fine at level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1,000) would be appropriate; or

(2) The Government should be given the power to create new offences in secondary legislation of carrying out, procuring or taking part in regulated new funerary methods in contravention of legislation or other detailed regulation. Any secondary legislation made under this power should be subject to the affirmative resolution procedure.

N/a.

Consultation Question 10

9.12 We provisionally propose that primary legislation should:

(1) require that the use of a new funerary method on the body of a deceased person must be registered; and

(2) stipulate that regulations made about specific new methods must set out how and by whom this registration must be carried out.

Do consultees agree?

Yes, in both cases.

Consultation Question 11

9.13 We provisionally propose that the power to make detailed regulation about new funerary methods should be broad enough to encompass the matters set out at paragraphs 6.85 to 6.119 of this Consultation Paper.

Do consultees agree?

N/a.

9.14 We invite consultees' views on whether there are any other matters that may need to be included in detailed regulation of individual new funerary methods, beyond the matters set out in paragraphs 6.85 to 6.119 of this Consultation Paper. Responses to this question may include views on the potential content of detailed regulation of specific new funerary methods, although whether and how specific new funerary methods should be regulated will be a question for Government to address in future.

N/a.

Consultation Question 12

9.15 We invite consultees' views on whether the power to make regulations should include the ability to make provision for approved trials of new funerary methods.

N/a.

Consultation Question 13

9.16 We provisionally propose that primary legislation should explicitly prohibit the use of a new funerary method which has not been regulated. Do consultees agree?

Yes.

Consultation Question 14

9.17 We provisionally propose that:

(1) it should be a criminal offence to procure or take part in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated; and

(2) to be guilty of the offence of procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated, the defendant must:

(a) know that they are procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method; and

(b) know that the new funerary method is not regulated.

Do consultees agree?

N/a.

9.18 We provisionally propose that:

(1) it should be a criminal offence to carry out a new funerary method which is not regulated; and

(2) to be guilty of the offence of carrying out a new funerary method which is not regulated, the defendant must know that they are carrying out a new funerary method.

Do consultees agree?

N/a.

9.19 We invite consultees' views on whether:

(1) there should be a corresponding fault element as to regulation, such that, to be guilty of the offence of carrying out a new funerary method which is not regulated, the defendant must either know that the new funerary method is not regulated or be reckless as to whether the new funerary method is regulated; or

(2) there are any reasons that would justify having no fault element for this part of the offence, so a person can be guilty even if they do not know that the new funerary method they are carrying out is not regulated and are not reckless as to whether the new funerary method is regulated.

N/a.

Consultation Question 15

9.20 We provisionally propose that the maximum penalty for the offence of carrying out, procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated should be more severe than for the offence of carrying out, procuring or taking part in a cremation except in accordance with cremation legislation (a fine at level 3 on the standard scale, currently £1,000).

Do consultees agree?

N/a.

9.21 We invite consultees' views on whether the maximum penalty for the offence of carrying out, procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated should include a period of imprisonment.

N/a.

Consultation Question 16

9.22 We invite consultees to provide data and evidence-based views on the likely impacts (economic and social) of the provisional proposals in this Consultation Paper. This may include data and evidence from other jurisdictions.

N/a.

Consultation Question 17

9.23 We invite consultees to tell us if they believe or have evidence or data to suggest that any of our provisional proposals could result in advantages or disadvantages to certain groups, whether or not these groups are protected under the Equality Act 2010.

As stated above, the position of the Catholic Church in England and Wales towards these new funerary methods would be one of acceptance rather than endorsement in terms of their wider practice, while maintaining that they are not appropriate for Catholic funerary practice.

While we believe that the practice of alternative funerary rites by other religious and non-religious congregations and communities would not necessarily produce any particular disadvantages for the Catholic community, we would like to draw attention to certain circumstances where the use of such new funerary methods may cause injury to the Catholic community: namely, the arrangement of a public health funeral or ‘pauper’s funeral’. In such cases, given the possibility that the deceased may have been a practising Catholic, we would request that the choice of funerary methods be limited to burial or cremation rather than involving new funerary methods that would be offensive to the Catholic faith and tradition.

Consultation Question 18

9.24 We invite consultees to provide data and evidence-based views on the likely impacts of the provisional proposals in this Consultation Paper that are specific to Wales.

N/a.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent on: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 2:59:28 PM
To: [REDACTED]; benfm <benfm@lawcommission.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Funerary methods

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Very well done indeed.

The document attached to your email is truthful and exposes profiteering at the expense of the environment and the public – [REDACTED]

In addition, the risk of the 'acid bath murders' of the 1950s returning becomes a distinct possibility. [REDACTED], if body disposal is not restricted to licenced operators who are easily monitored.

[REDACTED] but no longer have any financial exposure in this field. Therefore, I speak with authority but without financial personal gain or loss making me biased in the matter.

As a result, my support for your honesty, experience and knowledge in here is without gain and is purely motivated by your correct assertions.

I hope that government has enough sense to listen to an actual expert in this field – when they are clearly, and understandably, not experts.

However, we will have to wait and see – as lobbying by those who wish to exploit, rather than what is good for the nation, usually wins the day.

Best,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent on: 02 September 2025 14:35:43
To: [bcnfm](#)
Subject: Funerary methods
Attachments: Alkaline Hydrolysis.docx (139.36 KB)

[REDACTED]

Sirs

Regarding the consultation for alternative funerary methods I have to make strong objection to both

- Alkaline hydrolysis (Resomation)
- Human Composting

Both I believe are being miss-sold to the public.

Alkaline Hydrolysis

I attach my report on the process.

I feel the public are being miss sold the process as being green, and gentle. It is far from either.

Some further questions

How is the mercury removed from teeth as it is trapped inside the teeth during the process (teeth being calcium)? If cremulated then it is arguably a hazardous material, if removed then it can only be done manually! If they are arguing it is contained in the liquour then the providers can't say that the liquour can be used for fertiliser!

What guarantees are there that all tissues are removed from the bone cavities? Reports in US have stated that some brain tissue has been found in the skull and other dense bone structures, unlike cremation where you can observe until all remains no longer "flame" where you know that everything has been cremated this is not possible with the way the Alkaline Hydrolysis/Resomation system works. There are no observation points and there is no way of determining the success of the process until a cycle is completed. If the process is incomplete then it should be undertaken again, but ill this actually happen!?

I would argue that both these vagaries are open to abuse or neglect and very difficult to regulate. Certainly in light of recent events at Legacy Funerals in Hull the process is open to abuse and if managed by an unregulated industry, as is the case of the funeral sector it is a open opportunity for further unscrupulous activities.

Composting

When enquiring what happens to the 2 m³ or so of compost and what would a relative receive? The suppliers stated that the bereaved would get an urn size sample of the composted material.

When asked what happens to the remaining material, I was informed that this was recycled for the next process as it contained the increased levels of micro-organisms that would help enhance the next cycle. This would mean that with each cycle there is effectively the remains of a number of individuals and that by the completion of the sixth cycle for example, the relatives would have a sample that would contains the residues of the previous 5 deceased who had been processed.

When concern was expressed about this and that the public were not getting "just" the remains of their loved ones, the answer from the suppliers was that no DNA was present. This cannot be guaranteed in all cases. Further, there is no DNA in cremated ash but the public would be simply outraged if they had their relatives ashes mixed with the ashes of five previous cremations.

For these reasons the Law Commission **should not consent** to either of these processes until a full independent audit is undertaken of the processes and the guarantees to the public are achievable in terms of their expectation and that the public are provided all the facts in an open an honest way, this is not the case in the current marketing approach of both these activities

Kind regards

[REDACTED]



Alkaline Hydrolysis – Resomation

History

Alkaline Hydrolysis is commonly referred to as Resomation or Aquamation by the general public and organisations in the bereavement industry.

The method was first developed in the early 1990s as a way to dispose of animals used in experiments and it was later the method of choice for getting rid of animals affected by the CJD epidemic.

In 1992, Albany Medical College colleagues Gordon Kaye and Peter Weber started to develop the process for disposal of research animals. In 1994 they received a patent. Following which they developed the machines known as “tissue digester”. The first commercial machine was donated to Shands Hospital in 1995 for the processing of human remains.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

As of July 2022, there are approximately 60 machines operating in funeral homes in the USA.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The process

The procedure uses a solution of 95% water and 5% solution of potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide, or a combination of the two, to reduce the body to its basic elements of bone.

The body is placed in a high-pressure chamber. Water (1,200 to 1,500 litres) and the alkaline chemicals are added and raise the pH to around 14 the solution is then heated to temperatures in excess of 150 degrees Celsius. Under high pressure, this alkaline solution increases the rate of the decomposition process to approximately 3 to 6 hours subject to temperature and alkaline concentration.

Near the end of the process high pressure jets are targeted and the parts of the body where disassociated tissues may gather and are “jetted” off the skeleton.

The hot effluent is then cooled and a neutralising solution is applied to allow the pH value to be suitable for discharge into sewers.

Once the process is complete, any material in the body containing traces of metal for example mercury fillings or metallic joint replacements must be removed by hand, then the saturated bones are removed, dried, and pulverised.

The figure below demonstrates the process outlined above.

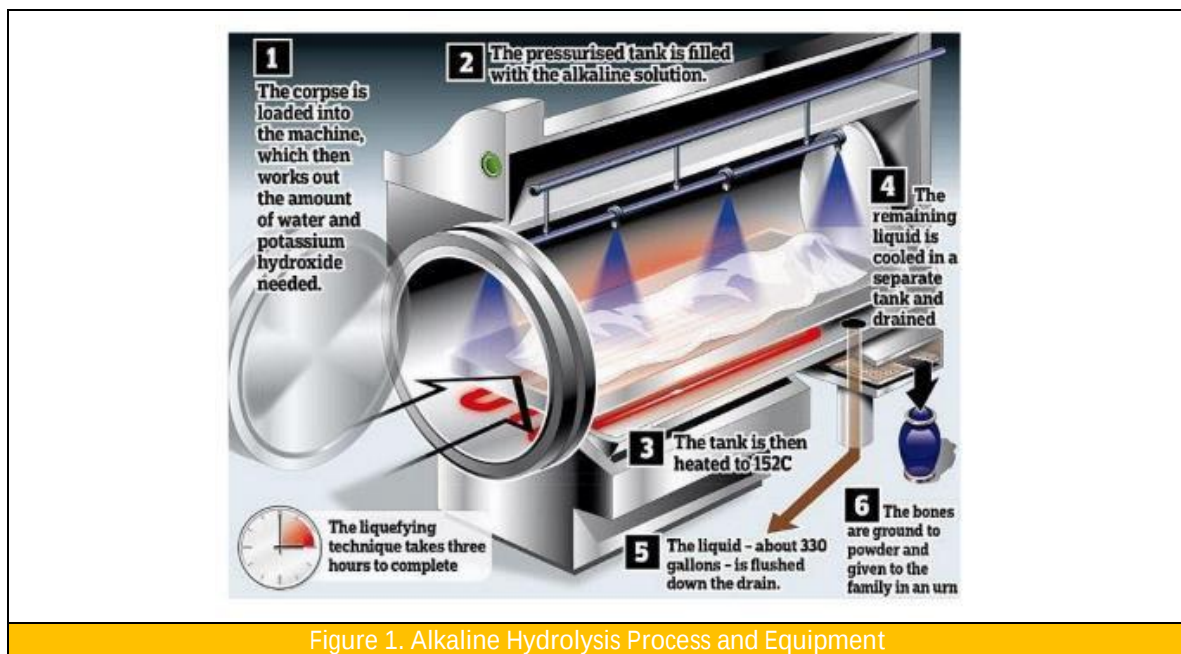
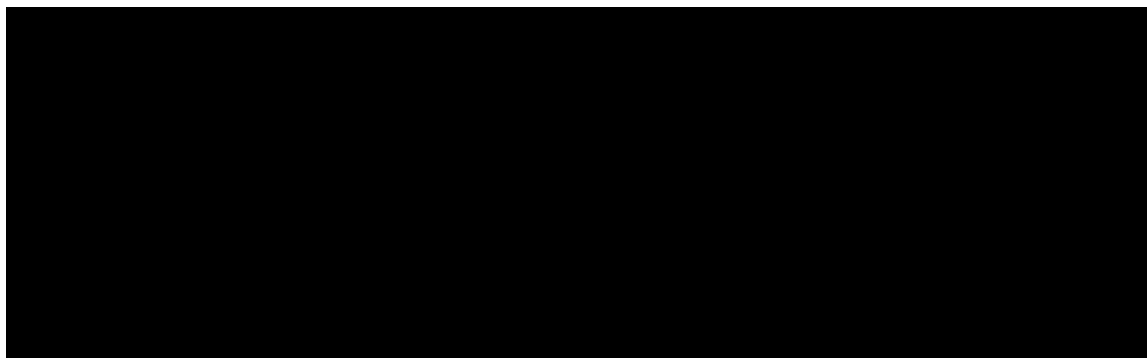


Figure 1. Alkaline Hydrolysis Process and Equipment

Energy usage



The table above illustrates typical average energy usage rates for Alkaline Hydrolysis (using gas or electric steam generators) compared to an average of 4 gas cremation and electric cremations in a day.

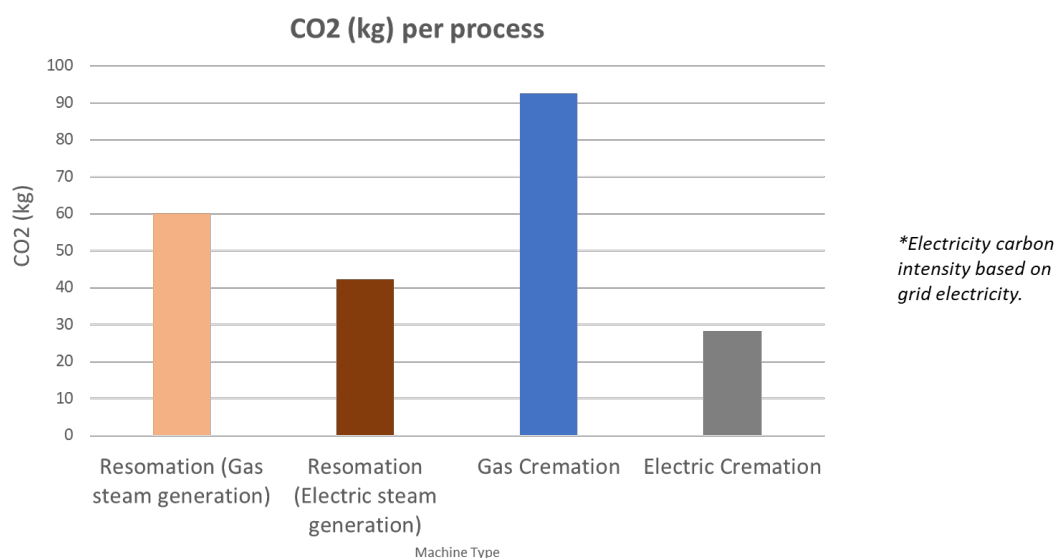
Energy usage of electric and gas cremation becomes more efficient the more processes conducted per day where each Alkaline Hydrolysis process will require a similar energy requirement with every process conducted.

Carbon production

In the act of gas and electric cremation, there is a single process. This is the energy used as the heat source with the current fuel sources being mainly natural gas, electricity or LPG.

In the process carbon comparatives, the table below shows the ranges of carbon production for each process. Whilst there are some processes common to both conventional cremation and Alkaline Hydrolysis such as cremulation of the bone residue there are a number of processes unique to Alkaline Hydrolysis and not in conventional cremation that should be assessed for carbon production in isolation.

This study aims to provide a fair assessment for each technology, to do so we must take into account the re-use of heat from each technology, to reflect the average process. An average facility in the UK completes between 750-1,000 processes per machine, which accounts for 3-4 processes per day, per machine.



It should be noted that the figures above are based on grid electricity and not green energy tariff electricity.

In Alkaline Hydrolysis, there are several constituent elements that are used for each process.

- Water (1200 litres)
- Base additives; potassium hydroxide (KOH) or sodium hydroxide (NaOH)
- Heat source (gas or electric) steam generators.
- Neutralizing additive (acid)
- Drying of bones (electric or gas dryers)



Production of potassium hydroxide

The electrolysis of potassium chloride is main method used to produce potassium hydroxide (KOH). The electricity is used plays a big role in calculating how much carbon is embedded, depending on whether the source for the electricity is from standard grid supply or from sustainable means.

By running an electric current through a potassium chloride solution, potassium hydroxide is created during the electrolysis of potassium chloride. According to data published by Winnipeg State University and Carbon Cloud the carbon footprint is estimated at 1.94 kg carbon per unit of KOH product.

The energy used for electrolysis, which is typically derived from fossil fuel sources, is primarily responsible for the carbon emissions associated with this process. The precise amount of carbon embedded will depend on the energy mix and efficiency of the electrolysis process.

If alternative base materials are used to produce the alkaline solution such as Sodium Hydroxide the embedded carbon is around 0.69 kg carbon per 1 kg of product (Winnipeg Uni Data, and Carbon Cloud). There is no allowance for transportation of product.

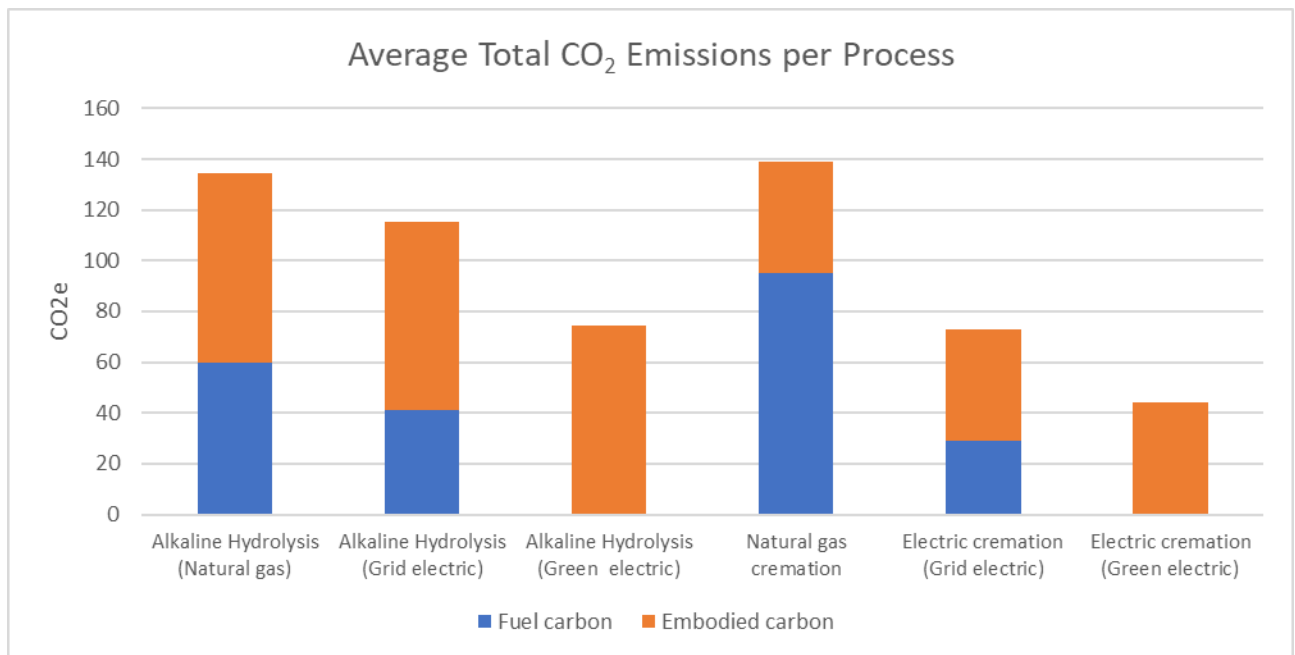
UK manufacturing and supply companies of KOH have agreed that these figures would be broadly correct.

This data suggests when using KOH for the reagent in Alkaline Hydrolysis, the process produces almost as much carbon per procedure than even natural gas cremation.

The graphs below show the total carbon emission when considering a complete process of Alkaline Hydrolysis (using KOH at 5% solution*), compared to an average of CO₂ produced from each cremation taken from 4 cremations in a day.



	Fuel carbon	Embodied carbon
Alkaline Hydrolysis (Natural gas)	60	74.5
Alkaline Hydrolysis (Grid electric)	41	74.5
Alkaline Hydrolysis (Green electric)	0	74.5
Natural gas cremation	95	44
Electric cremation (Grid electric)	29	44
Electric cremation (Green electric)	0	44



Legislation

Currently no commercial Alkaline Hydrolysis process has been conducted in the UK despite Sandwell Council being the first to give technical approval.

The main issue is consent from many of the Water Companies to allow the effluent from each alkaline hydrolysis process to enter the sewer system. The effluent may meet minimum standards for contaminants, pH and temperature by managing the process before discharge, but many Water Companies have concerns with the negative PR of having human remains mixed with human excreta and other human sanitary waste materials and products.

Public perception and uptake

Currently the USA is the only country undertaking alkaline hydrolysis commercially for a measurable period. As such it is prudent to study this data when considering the likely success in this country.

In the last 15 years, aquamation has been used on hundreds of thousands of departed U.S. pets. But when it comes to deceased humans, it fallen short of being a popular alternative to dispose of the deceased. While there are now more than 3,300 licensed crematoria nationwide in the US, with a 2.3% growth from 2019 to 2022, less than 40 facilities in the US offer alkaline hydrolysis services.

According to Barbara Kemmis, executive director of the Cremation Association of North America (CANA), of the 1.8 million cremations performed in 2021, she estimates that less than one tenth of one percent (0.1%) were Resomation/Aquamation⁴. This equates to just 1,800 alkaline hydrolysis services. Over all deaths at 3,364,231 in 2021 in the US Alkaline hydrolysis disposal accounted for just 0.05%

Aquamation is allowed in about 20 states, according to CANA, yet so far only about 13 are equipped to carry out the procedure.

If this 0.1% is applied to the 540,000 cremations in the UK and Channel Islands, this would equate to just 540 alkaline hydrolysis processes per annum.

This would require just one machine to service the needs of the whole UK.

According to a Sky News report, Helen Smith, chief commercial officer at Co-op Funeralcare, says a YouGov poll commissioned by the company shows that although 89% of adults hadn't heard of water cremation, almost a third said they would choose it if it was available. This would suggest that 27% of respondents would opt for Resomation. While we don't know the number of respondents to the survey, this seems to conflict with the evidence from the more mature USA market, when in 2021, only 1,800 Americans from a population of 332 million opted for Alkaline Hydrolysis.

Are the public being clearly informed of the process?

The marketing strategy for alkaline hydrolysis aims to portray the process as eco-friendly, presenting significantly greater green credentials than gas or electric cremation. However, the data illustrated above suggests that the process emits more carbon even than conventional gas cremation.

The providers of alkaline hydrolysis suggest it is a gentle, hygienic process; however, the actual procedure includes the following activities:

- The human skeleton is jetted with high pressure jets to remove residual tissues from the body.
- The bones that still maintain the form of a human skeleton are bagged and dried before being cremulated.
- The non skeletal remains are simply flushed into the main sewer network to be mixed with all common human sewage including faeces, urine, etc.
- Teeth are manually extracted to remove fillings.

The providers of this technology do not seem to appreciate that many bereaved families have an inviolable relationship with the cremated remains of their loved ones.

Conclusion

Alkaline Hydrolysis appears to produce a significant amount of carbon and therefore arguably fails to be a greener alternative to gas or electric cremation.



As a result, when looking for useful alternatives to reduce the carbon footprint of the cremation industry, it falls well short of any new product looking to enhance the green agenda.

The base technology behind the process is over 30 years old which probably drives the main issues with its carbon footprint and required energy usage. There is no evidence when the technology was first developed it was intended to be a greener alternative to existing flame cremation. The green marketing approach appears to have been based on qualitative not quantitative data.

Aside from its lack of green credentials, we also feel as though the reality of the invasive process and the undignified disposal of human remains into a common foul sewer makes it unlikely to resonate with bereaved families in the UK.

Source

¹ *Water UK annual emissions report 2021*

² *Potassium hydroxide is manufactured through the electrolysis of an aqueous solution of potassium chloride splitting the compound into potassium and chloride. Chloride is released as gas and the potassium reacts with water to form potassium hydroxide. This process uses a lot of energy and therefore has a large carbon footprint estimated at 1.94 kg carbon per unit of product. If using Sodium Hydroxide the embedded carbon is around 0.69 kg carbon per 1 kg of product (Winnipeg Uni Data, and Carbon Cloud). There is no allowance for transportation of product.*

³ *Although part of the process this information is withheld and therefore difficult to assess the amount and type of acidifying agent that would be required to buffer the pH down to levels acceptable by water companies, there will be an amount of carbon embedded in the manufacturing of the material and the transportation of the material to the site. We have therefore assumed a nominal amount of 5Kg of CO₂e*

⁴ *Smithsonian Magazine publication July 2022*

National Burial Council – New Funerary Methods Consultation Response

Protecting Burials, Preserving Dignity and Honouring Mourning



Consultation Question 1

2.29 – We provisionally propose that a new funerary method is: (1) (2) (3) (4) a process; other than burial, cremation or burial at sea; that breaks down the body of a deceased person; and which has the purpose of disposing of the body of a deceased person (and not, for example, the purpose of preserving or researching bodies). Do consultees agree?

NBC Response:

Agreed.

Consultation Question 2

2.87 – Are consultees aware of any other significant developments with the processes mentioned in paragraphs 2.39 to 2.85 of this Consultation Paper?

NBC Response:

No.

2.88 – Are consultees aware of any other potential new funerary methods, other than those mentioned in paragraphs 2.39 to 2.85 of this Consultation Paper?

NBC Response:

No.

Consultation Question 3

3.68 – We provisionally propose that the requirements in legislation relating to death registration should be broadly the same for an approved and regulated new funerary method as for burial and cremation. Do consultees agree?

NBC Response:

In principle, we agree that legislation relating to death registration should be broadly aligned across all funerary methods. However, given that burial and cremation legislation is itself currently under scrutiny, it would be prudent to consider each new funerary method in isolation at the point of its introduction. This would allow for closer oversight, ensure public confidence in the early stages, and enable the identification of specific issues unique to that method. Once these methods are more established and public understanding has grown, it would then be appropriate to bring registration requirements fully in line with those for burial and cremation.

Consultation Question 4

5.56 – We provisionally propose that new funerary methods should be defined and regulated separately from existing funerary methods (rather than, for example, being included in the definition of cremation). Do consultees agree?

NBC Response:

In line with our response to Q3.68, the National Burial Council considers it important that any new funerary methods are defined and regulated as distinct processes, with clear and separate terminology. This approach will avoid ambiguity, ensure transparency for the public, and provide confidence that regulation is tailored appropriately to each method.

Consultation Question 5.

5.70 - We provisionally propose that new legislation for the regulation of new funerary methods should contain a power to make regulations approving the use of specific new funerary methods and setting out how they should be carried out. Do consultees agree?

NBC Response:

Yes. A regulatory framework that is future-proof and capable of adapting to emerging developments within the death care sector would provide resilience, consistency, and reassurance for both providers and the public.

Consultation Question 6.

5.84 - We invite consultees' views on whether licensing should be part of the regulation of specific new funerary methods. Licensing would be in addition to secondary legislation approving the use of specific new funerary methods and setting out how they should be carried out.

NBC Response:

As noted previously, additional layers of assurance are of clear benefit to those accessing such services. Just as crematoria and new cemeteries are subject to permits, it follows that new funerary methods should also require licensing. Without this safeguard, such methods would risk falling short in terms of accountability and long-term operational standards

Consultation Question 7.

6.51 - Should primary legislation expressly require the Government to have regard to the following principles when making secondary legislation about specific new funerary methods?
(1)(2)(3) Protection of the environment. Protection of public health and public safety.
Preservation of human dignity.

NBC Response:

We agree that these three principles should provide the foundation for future legislation, as they are essential to safeguarding public trust, upholding human dignity, and ensuring confidence in any new funerary method

6.52 – We also invite consultees' views on any further principles.

NBC Response:

No comment.

Consultation Question 8.

6.72 - We provisionally propose that primary legislation should specify that it is a criminal offence to do the following, in relation to the use of regulated new funerary methods: (1) dishonestly make false representations to procure the use of a new funerary method, with a maximum penalty of, on summary conviction, an unlimited fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding the general limit in a magistrates' court, and, on indictment, a fine or two years' imprisonment; and (2) procure or attempt to procure the use of a new funerary method with intent to conceal an offence or impede a prosecution, with a maximum penalty, on indictment, of a fine or five years' imprisonment. Do consultees agree?

NBC Response:

Yes. Comparable cases within the funeral sector have demonstrated how misrepresentation of care can cause significant harm to bereaved families. Robust penalties that act as a genuine deterrent are therefore both necessary and appropriate.

Consultation Question 9.

6.73 - We invite consultees' views on whether: (1) primary legislation should provide that it is a criminal offence to carry out, procure or take part in regulated new funerary methods in contravention of legislation or other detailed regulation and, if so, whether a maximum penalty, on summary conviction (in magistrates' courts), of a fine at level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1,000) would be appropriate; or (2) the Government should be given the power to create new offences in secondary legislation of carrying out, procuring or taking part in regulated new funerary methods in contravention of legislation or other detailed regulation. Any secondary legislation made under this power should be subject to the affirmative resolution procedure.

NBC Response:

It is essential that the term 'taking part' is clearly defined to ensure consistency

Consultation Question 10.

6.81 - We provisionally propose that primary legislation should: (1) (2) require that the use of a new funerary method on the body of a deceased person must be registered; and stipulate that regulations made about specific new methods must set out how and by whom this registration must be carried out. Do consultees agree?

NBC Response:

Yes. This should be consistent with the safeguards already in place for existing funerary practices, ensuring accurate records, accountability, and reassurance for both families and authorities

Consultation Question 11.

6.120 - *We provisionally propose that the power to make detailed regulation about new funerary methods should be broad enough to encompass the matters set out at paragraphs 6.85 to 6.119 of this Consultation Paper. Do consultees agree?*

NBC Response:

Yes

6.120 - *We invite consultees' views on whether there are any other matters that may need to be included in detailed regulation of individual new funerary methods, beyond the matters set out in paragraphs 6.85 to 6.119 of this Consultation Paper. Responses to this question may include views on the potential content of detailed regulation of specific new funerary methods, although whether and how specific new funerary methods should be regulated will be a question for Government to address in future.*

NBC Response:

In addition, regard to the status of remains is of particular importance. Regulations should also recognise the validity of losses at all stages, including non-viable foetus (NVF), to ensure bereaved families are not left feeling that their loss is of lesser significance in statute.

Consultation Question 12.

6.126 - *We invite consultees' views on whether the power to make regulations should include the ability to make provision for approved trials of new funerary methods.*

NBC Response:

Yes. This would seem particularly necessary for a new funerary method.

Consultation Question 13.

7.14 - *We provisionally propose that primary legislation should explicitly prohibit the use of a new funerary method which has not been regulated. Do consultees agree?*

NBC Response:

Yes

Consultation Question 14.

7.45 - We provisionally propose that: (1) it should be a criminal offence to procure or take part in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated; and (2) to be guilty of the offence of procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated, the defendant must: (a) know that they are procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method; and (b) know that the new funerary method is not regulated. Do consultees agree?

NBC Response:

Yes

7.46 - We provisionally propose that: (1) it should be a criminal offence to carry out a new funerary method which is not regulated; and (2) to be guilty of the offence of carrying out a new funerary method which is not regulated, the defendant must know that they are carrying out a new funerary method. Do consultees agree?

NBC Response:

Yes

7.47 - We invite consultees' views on whether: (1) there should be a corresponding fault element as to regulation, such that, to be guilty of the offence of carrying out a new funerary method which is not regulated, the defendant must either know that the new funerary method is not regulated or be reckless as to whether the new funerary method is regulated; or (2) there are any reasons that would justify having no fault element for this part of the offence, so a person can be guilty even if they do not know that the new funerary method they are carrying out is not regulated and are not reckless as to whether the new funerary method is regulated.

NBC Response:

Any offence relating to the use of unregulated new funerary methods should include a fault element. This ensures that regulation is enforced with fairness, clarity, and respect for the diverse actors within the bereavement and funerary sector.

Consultation Question 15.

7.48 - We provisionally propose that the maximum penalty for the offence of carrying out, procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated should be more severe than for the offence of carrying out, procuring or taking part in a cremation except in accordance with cremation legislation (a fine at level 3 on the standard scale, currently £1,000). Do consultees agree?

7.49 - We invite consultees' views on whether the maximum penalty for the offence of carrying out, procuring or taking part in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated should include a period of imprisonment.

NBC Response:

NBC agrees that the maximum penalty for the offence of carrying out, procuring, or taking part in the use of a new funerary method which is not regulated should be more severe than the current penalty for unlawful cremation (a level 3 fine, currently £1,000).

- A more severe penalty would signal the seriousness of regulatory compliance and reinforce public confidence in the integrity of funerary practices. A higher maximum fine than the current level 3 standard.
- Imprisonment only where there is clear evidence of deliberate, harmful misconduct

Consultation Question 16.

We invite consultees to provide data and evidence-based views on the likely impacts (economic and social) of the provisional proposals in this Consultation Paper. This may include data and evidence from other jurisdictions.

NBC Response:

No comment

Consultation Question 17.

8.16 - We invite consultees to tell us if they believe or have evidence or data to suggest that any of our provisional proposals could result in advantages or disadvantages to certain groups, whether or not these groups are protected under the Equality Act 2010.

NBC Response:

New funerary methods may conflict with religious or cultural doctrines around bodily integrity, purification, or burial rites. Traditional burial in the earth, without cremation or chemical alteration, is a core tenet of our faith. We also request that any new methods introduced remain optional and not imposed, directly or indirectly, through policy or pricing structures

Consultation Question 18.

8.18 - *We invite consultees to provide data and evidence-based views on the likely impacts of the provisional proposals in this Consultation Paper that are specific to Wales.*

NBC Response:

No Comment

Law Commission Consultation on New Funerary Methods

September 2025



About the Local Government Association (LGA)

The Local Government Association (LGA) is the national voice of local government. We work with our members to support, promote and improve local government.

We are a politically-led, cross party organisation which works on behalf of councils to ensure local government has a strong, credible voice with national government.

This narrative provides the view of the LGA's Safer and Stronger Communities Committee Lead Members on the key proposals within the consultation. We have confined our response to the issues that will have the greatest impact on local authorities and not provided response to some of the more technical aspects of the consultation. We are grateful for the opportunity to respond.

Regulation and registration

We agree that there does need to be some form of regulation and registration for new funerary methods such as alkaline hydrolysis and human composting, as outlined within the consultation paper. We agree that Government should have the power to make regulations and future proofing their ability to make regulations appears to be sensible and will ensure that they can be applied as new funerary methods are developed. It will help ensure that the regulations are able to take account of these changes in the market as they appear.

Regulation will help give consistency and clarity to both communities and any companies that seek to provide these services. However, we note that your proposals around licensing would put the current funerary methods of burial and cremation on a different statutory footing to new funerary methods. Neither burial nor cremation providers are proposed to need a license, though there are environmental regulations in place for burial and cremation currently. We do not feel that a licensing scheme administered through local authorities would be the most effective route in which to create a new licensing scheme. If this is your preferred option, this should instead be through an overarching independent regulator. There would need to be a clear rationale for why a licence is necessary alongside secondary legislation and the discrepancy between the established funerary methods and new ones may create confusion.

Registration when new funerary methods have been used should be the same as it is currently for burial and cremation and provide the same level of safeguards for the deceased and their families. We would not wish to see that diminished.

We note that the three principles which underpin the regulation of established funerary methods and that are intended to guide decisions on future regulation are:

1. protection of the environment,
2. protection of public health and public safety, and
3. preservation of human dignity.

Submission

We agree with these principles and that they should be the basis for the development of any further regulation, in particular it would be helpful to ensure that the environmental impact is considered, especially with current environmental permitting that is in place for burial and cremation. We know that considering the environmental impact is outside of your remit but that should be important for the Government going forward.

The Law Commission mentions the following areas as ones for detailed regulation at a later date:

1. opening and closing facilities;
2. location of facilities;
3. operation and maintenance of facilities;
4. elements of the process;
5. inspection of facilities;
6. appointments;
7. medical devices;
8. application procedures on behalf of a deceased person;
9. circumstances in which a specific new funerary method may not be used;
10. remains;
11. new funerary methods and fetal remains; and
12. rights and obligations.

These seem like sensible areas to provide further regulation on. It is important that there are more detailed regulations to provide clarity on these issues in a similar way to current funerary methods and premises. Your previous consultation highlighted issues around uncollected ashes in particular, the remains from new funerary processes will differ from other funerary methods therefore this will need significant consideration to ensure that similar issues do not arise.

The Law Commission has asked if the power to make regulations should include the ability to make provision for approved trials of new funerary methods (question 12). It would be sensible to have some way of ensuring that people will not be prosecuted when they are undertaking trials etc for a new funerary methods but there will need to be safeguards for people to ensure that the three fundamental principles of regulation you outlined are followed in trials. There will need to be consideration given as to how trials might interact with your proposals around explicitly prohibiting the use of a new funerary methods which are not regulated (question 13) and the offences outlined in question 14.

Wider considerations

We do believe that your proposals also need to take account of the wider context in which the funeral and bereavement sector is now working, with the recommendations from the Fuller Inquiry having an impact on the sector, as well as the potential for further Government work in the wake of the activities of the Legacy Independent Funeral Directors in Hull.

The Fuller Inquiry's final report was published in the summer and set out a number of recommendations to protect the dignity and security of the deceased. The principal recommendation to Government of the inquiry was that they should establish an independent statutory regulatory regime, headed by a Chief Inspector, for those who store and care for deceased people. They outline that the purpose of the regulatory regime "should be to ensure that the security and dignity of deceased people are protected, in whichever institutions or locations they are cared for, examined or stored". They say that the role should be resourced adequately to discharge its responsibilities, and provide it with the powers to require information and enter premises to take appropriate enforcement action.

The Fuller Inquiry makes clear the importance of ensuring security and dignity in death, mirroring the principle of “preservation of human dignity” the Law Commission has identified. They have recommended that the Government should immediately appoint a Commissioner of the Dignity of Deceased who should immediately issue universal guidance that applies to all those who store and care for deceased people setting out expectations for the security and dignity of the deceased.

We believe that an independent regulatory body would be the most appropriate and effective way of regulating new funerary methods and also the rest of the funeral sector, in line with the proposals from the Fuller Inquiry. Whilst we know regulation of funeral directors is not within your scope, any regulation of new funerary methods would come into contact with funeral directors as well as local authorities and the wider sector. Therefore it would be a positive step if this all came under one independent regulator.