

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000642
Date 28 November 2016

Coroner's Transfer of Deceased Contract

Request:

1. Is a contract or framework agreement in place in your geographical area of responsibility for the transfer of the deceased on behalf of the Coroner?
[Yes](#)
2. If there is not a contract or framework in place, in the absence of any contractual arrangements, how is the transfer of the deceased on behalf of the Coroner organised in this area?
[N/A](#)
3. If there is not a contract or framework in place, over what specific area (e.g. local or unitary authority) are these informal arrangements in place for?
[N/A](#)
4. If there is a contract or framework agreement in place:
 - a. Who is the contract awarding body?
[City of Wolverhampton Council](#)
 - b. Which other public bodies are party to the contract, if any? E.g. detail the specific grouping of district councils within a county area procuring together.
[N/A](#)
 - c. What specific geographies does the contract cover? Please provide local authority, ward or other definable boundaries in the description of this.
[It covers within the City of Wolverhampton Council boundary only.](#)
 - d. Are these geographies divided into lots for contract purposes?
[No](#)
 - e. If the contract is divided into lots, please describe the specific geographies included within each contract lot? Please provide local authority, ward or other definable boundaries in the description of this.
[N/A](#)

- f. When was the contract for transfer of the deceased last let?
1 April 2016
- g. What is the term of the contract?
One year
- h. What are the extensions to the term that are permissible within the contract?
N/A
- i. Who is the present contract holder, including by lot if applicable?
Sanderson Funerals, based in Wolverhampton.
- j. What was the total number (volume) of transfers undertaken on behalf of the Coroner in each of the last three years in the contract area broken down by contract lots also, where they exist? Please confirm the year definition used in the response.
01/04/14 to 31/03/15 = 180 Coroners Removals and 151 Hospital Removals.

01/04/15 to 31/03/16 = 148 Coroners Removals and 141 Hospital Removals.

01/04/16 to 31/10/16 (to date) 99 Coroner's Removals and 102 Hospital Removals.
- k. What is the principle location that deceased are transferred to under contract obligations? If there is more than one, please list all principal locations and how they relate to the contract (e.g. lot) areas.
The deceased are mainly transferred to the Public Mortuary at Wednesfield. Some are transferred to the Digital Autopsy unit at Sandwell Valley Crematorium and then back to the Public Mortuary in Wednesfield.
- l. What was the total spent on transfer of the deceased in each of the last three years of the contract, broken down by contract lots where they exist? Please confirm the year definition used in the response.
01/04/14 to 31/03/15 = £3171.00 inc vat plus additional mileage rates.

01/04/15 to 31/03/16 = £2961.00 inc vat plus additional mileage rates.

Current year to date 01/04/16 to 31/10/16 = £3,510 inc vat plus additional mileage rates. NB There was no charge for Coroner removals in the previous two years, hence the increase in expenditure.

- m. What restrictions are in place on contract operators making families aware of the details of their firm on collection of a deceased?

In all cases of removal from a place of residence, the Funeral Director leaves behind a "Notice of Transfer" (or similar) document. This document states the name of the Funeral Director and the operative. It also includes the contract details of the firm and there is a statement to show that the Funeral Director has been appointed by the Coroner for the purpose of transfer to the Public Mortuary.

- n. What are the contact details for the procurement lead who will be responsible for re-tendering of this contract when the term ends (include individual, job role, organisation, address, phone number and email as available)?

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