

FOI number: **HBC\_FOI\_20200046**  
Date FOI Received: **20/01/2020**  
Department: **Environmental Health**  
Title: **Public Health Funerals 2016-20 and arrangements**  
Description: **The number of Public Health Funerals 2016-20 and arrangements for these including those in NHS Trusts and Hospitals.**

**Request: (As Redacted sent by requestor)**

Councils have a statutory duty to provide a funeral for someone who has died within their authority and has no one who is willing or able to make funeral arrangements under Section 46 of the Public Health (Control of Diseases) Act 1984.

I am requesting the following information from your authority.

1. How many funerals has the authority arranged in the last three years under your statutory duty to provide funerals under Sec 46 of the Public Health (Control of Diseases) Act 1984? (Please provide an annual breakdown)
2. Do you have a contract with an undertaker to provide this service?
3. If the answer to question 2 is yes, who is the contract with (please give full contact details)?
4. If the answer to question 2 is yes, when does the contract end?
5. If the answer to question 2 is No, who provides your funerals under this statutory obligation?
6. Of the funerals arranged how many have been at the agreed contract price and how many have been arranged where the fee is at the funeral directors normal price?
7. If a funeral has been arranged by the Council, where do Burials take place and where do Cremations take place?
8. What are the contact details for the team making funeral arrangements under Section 46 of the act?
9. Does your authority have an arrangement with the local NHS Trust over persons who die in Hospital with no next of kin? If so, what agreement is in place?
10. Please provide details naming the NHS Trust/Hospital responsible and the department responsible for any funerals undertaken where the deceased has no one willing or able to make arrangements.
11. Please provide the details (web address) of where I can download the Authority's declaration of payments made as directed under the Local Government Transparency Code 2015

**Response: (Response as Redacted sent by service)**

1. How many funerals has the authority arranged in the last three years under your statutory duty to provide funerals under Sec 46 of the Public Health (Control of Diseases) Act 1984? (Please provide an annual breakdown)  
2018 4  
2019 3  
2020 0 at present date
2. Do you have a contract with an undertaker to provide this service?  
No
3. If the answer to question 2 is yes, who is the contract with (please give full contact details)?  
NA
4. If the answer to question 2 is yes, when does the contract end?  
NA

5. If the answer to question 2 is No, who provides your funerals under this statutory obligation?  
**Various but usually Neville Funeral Services, Hemel Hempstead**
6. Of the funerals arranged how many have been at the agreed contract price and how many have been arranged where the fee is at the funeral directors normal price?  
**N/A**
7. If a funeral has been arranged by the Council, where do Burials take place and where do Cremations take place?  
**Cremations take place usually at West Herts Crematorium**
8. What are the contact details for the team making funeral arrangements under Section 46 of the act?  
**Environmental Health Department**
9. Does your authority have an arrangement with the local NHS Trust over persons who die in Hospital with no next of kin? If so, what agreement is in place?  
**No – no NHS hospital within the Borough**
10. Please provide details naming the NHS Trust/Hospital responsible and the department responsible for any funerals undertaken where the deceased has no one willing or able to make arrangements.  
**N/A**
11. Please provide the details (web address) of where I can download the Authority's declaration of payments made as directed under the Local Government Transparency Code 2015  
<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Your-Council/Other-council-departments/Finance-and-Business-Services/All-Council-Spending-Over-500/All-Council-Spending-Over-500.aspx>

If you have any queries about the processing of your request then please do not hesitate to contact me. Further information explaining the Council's process for responding to information requests together with a complaints/appeals procedure is available in our reception or via our website at:

<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Your-Council/Official-Publications--Guides--Policies/Access-to-Information.aspx>

The Information Commissioner oversees the application of the Freedom of Information Act. You may contact the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioners Office  
Wycliffe House, Water Lane  
Wilmslow

Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545700 Website: [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

Please include the above reference number on all correspondence related to this request.

Thank you for your request.

Kind regards

Information Services