

FOI number: **HBC\_FOI\_20210070**  
Date FOI Received: **3/02/2021**  
Department: **Environmental Health**  
Title: **Public Health Funerals number and cost 2018-2021**  
Description: **Public Health Funerals Cost 2018-2021**

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

How many public health funerals were carried out by the council in the financial years 2020/21 (up to and including all of January 2021), 2019/20 and 2018/19? Please could you break this figure down year-by-year.

2. How much has the council spent on public health funerals it has carried out in the financial years 2020/21 (up to and including all of January 2021), 2019/20 and 2018/19? Please could you break this figure down year-by-year.
3. If possible, for those public health funerals carried out by the council in the financial years 2020/21 (up to and including all of January 2021) and 2019/20 please could the council state how many of those deceased individuals had Covid-19/coronavirus mentioned on their death certificate as one of the causes. Please could you break this figure down year-by-year.
4. Does the council allow family members or friends to attend public health funerals? If not, why?
5. In cases where the deceased person's body is cremated for a public health funeral, does the council return ashes to the family or friends? If not, why not? Does the council charge to return ashes to family or friends of the deceased where a public health funeral has taken place? If so, how much is charged and why?
6. If possible, please can you provide figures disclosing whether the deceased person who was given a public health funeral was cremated or buried? If the latter, please could you disclose whether they had their own grave or if they were buried in a shared grave. I would be grateful if you could break down these figures year-by-year for the financial years 2020/21 (up to and including all of January 2021), 2019/20 and 2018/19.

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

1. How many public health funerals were carried out by the council in the financial years 2020/21 (up to and including all of January 2021), 2019/20 and 2018/19? Please could you break this figure down year-by-year.

2020/21	8
2019/2020	1
2018/2019	5

2. How much has the council spent on public health funerals it has carried out in the financial years 2020/21 (up to and including all of January 2021), 2019/20 and 2018/19? Please could you break this figure down year-by-year.

2020/21	£2743.00 (costs recovered from the rest)
2019/2020	£1050.00
2018/2019	£2694.12 (costs recovered from the rest)

3. If possible, for those public health funerals carried out by the council in the financial years 2020/21 (up to and including all of January 2021) and 2019/20 please could the council state

how many of those deceased individuals had Covid-19/coronavirus mentioned on their death certificate as one of the causes. Please could you break this figure down year-by-year

Neither mentioned on certificates

4. Does the council allow family members or friends to attend public health funerals? If not, why?

Yes

5. In cases where the deceased person's body is cremated for a public health funeral, does the council return ashes to the family or friends? If not, why not? Does the council charge to return ashes to family or friends of the deceased where a public health funeral has taken place? If so, how much is charged and why?

We do allow family to collect ashes, there is no cost involved unless expatriated

6. If possible, please can you provide figures disclosing whether the deceased person who was given a public health funeral was cremated or buried? If the latter, please could you disclose whether they had their own grave or if they were buried in a shared grave. I would be grateful if you could break down these figures year-by-year for the financial years 2020/21 (up to and including all of January 2021), 2019/20 and 2018/19.

All were cremated

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<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