

PE2084/B: Allow alkaline hydrolysis

Scottish Government submission of 14 June 2024

Thank you for your letter of 17 May 2024 requesting information on:

- whether the Scottish Government intends to regulate alkaline hydrolysis in its development of regulations under the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016.
- when the Scottish Government expects the outstanding regulations to be implemented.

I am responding as Deputy Director for the Public Health Capabilities Division, with responsibility for the overarching policy governing the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 ('the 2016 Act').

The 2016 Act already provides for new methods of disposing of bodies in section 99 which may be done by making regulations under section 99. There is therefore no need to amend the 2016 Act to enable new methods to be made available.

As you mention, the responses to the Scottish Government consultation on alkaline hydrolysis support the introduction of regulations for alkaline hydrolysis. The responses are helping to inform the development of the regulations which is ongoing. The regulations will be laid in parliament for consideration but I am unable to provide a definite date at this time.

Population Health Directorate