

“The Bill would:

- expand the list of people who can register a death and enable a death to be registered without the informant attending in person;
- amend who can sign a medical certificate of cause of death, enabling a doctor who may not have seen the deceased to certify the cause of death without the death being referred to the coroner;
- relax the requirement, in England and Wales, for a death to be reported to the coroner if the certifying doctor has not seen the deceased after death or within 14 days before death, so that the death need not be reported to the coroner if any doctor has seen the deceased after death or within an extended period of 28 days before death;
- remove the requirement in Northern Ireland that a death from natural illness or disease must be notified to the coroner if the deceased had not been seen or treated by a registered doctor within 28 days prior to the death;
- streamline the registration of a stillbirth (Northern Ireland);
- enable documents that currently have to be physically presented in connection with death registration to be transmitted electronically or by other means;
- remove the need for a second confirmatory medical certificate in order for a cremation to take place in England and Wales and Northern Ireland;
- enable Scottish Ministers to suspend the review of certain medical certificates of cause of death and provisions relating to the collection of ashes; provide that for the purposes of inquests, Covid-19 is not a notifiable disease, meaning that the coroner would not be required to sit with a jury;
- confer powers to facilitate the transportation, storage and disposal of dead bodies and human remains.”