

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from your council. Please could you provide me with:

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| 1. A year-by-year breakdown of the total number of public health funerals (where the deceased has no relatives or there is no one else willing to pay) that your council has undertaken or funded for the last five financial years (2018-19 onwards). | 2018 - 17
2019 - 30
2020 - 22
2021 - 23
2022 - 24 |
| 2. Within this breakdown, the recorded reason for the public health funeral (eg, whether this was due to poverty, family being untraceable/uncontactable, relatives refusing to finance or make arrangements). | Information not available |
| 3. Within this annualised breakdown, how many were burials and which were cremations. | All were cremations |
| 4. Within this breakdown, the fees paid or costs incurred for each funeral | 2018 – Average £1346.03
2019 - Average £1714.43
2020 - Average £1736.68
2021 – Average £1289.49
2022 - Average £1097.82 |
| 5. On a year-by-year basis for the 5 year period, the number of applications to the council for public health funeral that were rejected. | 0 |
| 6. On a year-by-year basis for the 5 year period, please could you give the number of public health funerals that your authority has undertaken by gender | Information not recorded |
| 7. On a year-by-year basis for the 5 year period, the number of public health funerals by age of deceased | Information not recorded |
| 8. Please could you provide information on what typical costs for a public health funeral would include, what advice is given to next of kin on what is and isn't covered by the service, and which external businesses or individuals would receive payment for this (for example whether is there a list of approved local funeral directors which the council uses or has a long-term contract with). | NoK are advised that the public health funeral would ordinarily be a cremation unless cultural requirements are different. Professional services by funeral director. Doctors' fees Crematorium fees Ministers' fees (if applicable), families are given the option for music choice to ensure funeral is personalised to the deceased. All funerals are undertaken by the approved contractor for Wigan Council who are Co op funeral care who are paid by ourselves. |

9. My understanding is that under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984, councils in England and Wales must provide public health funerals to bury or cremate the body of anyone who has died alone in poverty, or whose relatives cannot afford a funeral. Please could you direct me to the relevant information on your website, which provides public information about this service - or any literature which the council has produced.

This information is not available as referrals to request a Public Health funeral are received from the coroner's office.

Alongside of the Public health funeral, residents can access Wigan resident's funeral information is provided below.

[Wigan and Leigh Residents Funeral Services](#)