**Request Reference: 18190083**

**Date received: 12 April 2018**

**Date response sent: 10 May 2018**

**1. Please tell me the average cost for a public health burial funeral in the financial years of:**

**(i) 2015/2016**

**(ii) 2016/2017**

**(iii) 2017/2018**No Burials – all were cremations

**2. Please tell me the average cost for a public health cremation funeral in the financial years of:**

1. **2015/2016**

£1,858.00

1. **2016/2017**

£1903.00 **(iii) 2017/2018**

£1957.00

**3. Please tell me how many public health funerals the council has provided in the financial years of:**

**(i) 2015/2016**  
36

**(ii) 2016/2017**

32

**(iii) 2017/2018**

25

**4. Please tell me the total cost of public health funerals the council spent in the financial years of:**

**(i) 2015/2016**

£55,570.00

**(ii) 2016/2017**£53,409.00

**(iii) 2017/2018**£41,465.00

**5. Please tell me how many people you have denied public health funerals and on what grounds in the financial years of:**

1. **2015/2016**
2. **2016/2017**
3. **2017/2018**This information is not recorded

**6. For this financial year only, please outline your policy on how many family members you allow to attend.**

Public funerals offered by Torbay Council are unattended cremations with no service unless this is paid for separately by friends or relatives. In general, relatives will be able to collect the ashes following the cremation, and may undertake their own service at a future date at their own expense if they wish to do so.

**7. Please tell me what you ask people seeking a public health funeral to do before agreeing to undertake it**If we believe they may be entitled to do so we would ask them to apply for a funeral grant from the Department of Work and Pensions to help cover the cost of the funeral arrangements.

**8. Please outline your position on returning ashes of the deceased to family members after a public health cremation has taken place**Next of kin can make arrangements to collect the ashes from the funeral provider at no expense. If ashes are not collected then they will be scattered in the garden of remembrance at Torquay cemetery in due course.

**9. Please detail how you make the availability of a public health funeral known to residents - is there a self-referral model or do people have to be referred to the council by a coroner?**

Generally public funerals are referred through to this department from the Coroner’s office. Alternatively we provide information on our website and enquiries can be received from our call centre.