



**HER MAJESTY'S CORONER
Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen**

26th May 2020

Dear Sirs

Improvements to the software for referring a death to the Coroner

Since November 2018 I requested that all referrals from general practice to the Coroner's Service in my jurisdiction should be made electronically. This allows the information to only be entered once into the computer system, reduces mistakes in the information provided, allows the Coroner's Officers to call you back at a time convenient to you and reduces the rejections of some Certificates by the Registrars. In the Covid 19 outbreak this is also had the advantage that all of the documentation allowing the death to be registered and the funeral to proceed can be accessed by my officers who are self-isolating at home and completed digitally without the need for hard copy.

I appreciate that this referral system has not been universally popular. However, with the introduction in the relatively near future of the Medical Examiners, you will again be able to discuss deaths (which are not obviously coronial deaths) with the Medical Examiner's Officer or the Medical Examiner. In the meantime, I am upgrading the software on which you refer cases to me. The new software has significant advantages in that you will only need to logon with a link rather than a username and password, addresses can be entered via a postcode search and you can review and edit your information before you submit the referral. After you submit your referral, you then have the option to save or print if you wish.

I expect the new software to be usable from mid-July onwards and I will contact you again once I know the exact date that the change will occur. I will arrange for this email to go to your current generic practice email that your practice provided me when we setup in the existing system. I will also email you a revised guidance document; confirm the 'go-live' date for four use of the new referral system and a link to access the system and your referral code.

Thank you very much for your anticipated assistance in introducing these measures, which should improve the service, offered to bereaved families and reduce unplanned interruptions in the General Practitioners' working day.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James R H Adeley'.

**Dr James R H Adeley
Senior Coroner**