

# **MARGAM JOINT CREMATORIUM COMMITTEE**

**19 JANUARY 2018**

## **REPORT OF THE CLERK**

### **MATTER FOR INFORMATION**

#### **WARDS AFFECTED:**

Margam

#### **Cremation Statistics**

##### **Purpose of Report.**

1. To provide the Joint Committee with statistics in relation to the percentage of deceased persons cremated and the historical statistics for cremations at Margam Crematorium.

##### **Background.**

2. When Members of the Joint Committee were considering a programme for capital works at the Crematorium there were some general discussion of possible growth in numbers of cremations in future years.
3. As a result of that discussion I thought it appropriate to put together some basic statistics for consideration by members which might be worth bearing in mind when future discussions take place on capacity at the Crematorium.
4. Table 1 below is derived from the website of the Cremation Society of Great Britain. The statistics are reasonably easy to analyse in that they indicate a continual increase in the percentage of deaths where disposal of human remains is carried out by cremation. However, the considerable rate of increase between 1960 and 1990 partly led by the opening of new crematoria, has gradually tailed away and the increase in percentage between the year 2000 and

2014 is more modest. International comparison indicates that, whilst in many countries the percentage of deaths leading to cremation is lower, there are certain societies where the percentage of cremations is higher than in this country. It may be that further cultural change or difficulties in finding new facilities for burials may increase the percentage, but recent increases have been very much more modest than in the previous decades.

**Table 1**

**The Cremation Society of Great Britain  
National Cremation Statistics 1960-2014**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Operating Crematoria</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Cremations</b>	<b>Percentage %</b>
1960	148	588,032	204,019	34.70
1970	206	638,834	353,957	55.41
1980	220	644,684	420,717	65.26
1990	225	629,629	438,066	69.58
2000	242	611,960	437,609	71.50
2010	260	565,776	413,780	73.13
2014	273	574,093	429,254	74.77

5. Margam Crematorium maintains its own statistics since the year 1969 which are set out in table 2 below. I have used the calendar year because it fits in with Table 1 but reported income figures are of course based on the financial year.

**Table 2**

**Margam Crematorium  
Annual Cremation Statistics**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Cremations</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Cremations</b>
1969	505	1994	1399
1970	1109	1995	1521
1971	854	1996	1535
1972	924	1997	1663
1973	1044	1998	1562
1974	1071	1999	1539
1975	1096	2000	1601
1976	1130	2001	1514
1977	1119	2002	1394
1978	1250	2003	1401
1979	1223	2004	1378
1980	1238	2005	1352
1981	1326	2006	1386
1982	1251	2007	1374
1983	1329	2008	1426
1984	1260	2009	1367
1985	1321	2010	1334
1986	1380	2011	1467
1987	1261	2012	1403
1988	1334	2013	749
1989	1496	2014	1128
1990	1389	2015	1461
1991	1471	2016	1536
1992	1414	2017	1496
1993	1594		

6. It is difficult to draw much from the local statistics other than they indicate an initial growth period from 1969 to the 1990s with the highest sustained number of cremations being in the second half of the 1990s. There have been fluctuations over the years which will reflect deaths in the locality, cultural changes, changes in the number and location of local crematoria and, occasionally, factors affecting the functioning of those crematoria e.g. refurbishments of some nature. If we exclude the years 2013 and 2014 the average number of cremations a year since and including 1990 is 1,453.

## **Financial Impact**

7. There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

## **Equality Impact Assessment**

8. There are no equality impacts associated with this report.

## **Workforce Impacts**

9. There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

## **Legal Impacts**

10. There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

## **Risk Management**

11. There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

## **Consultation**

12. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

## **Appendices**

13. None

## **List of Background Papers**

14. The Cremation Society of Great Britain - National Cremation Statistics 1960-2014

15. Margam Crematorium - Annual Cremation Statistics

## **Officer Contact**

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