

COVID-19

WHAT ARE THE MORTALITY RATE SCENARIO MODELS TELLING US?

Andrew Lilico of Europe Economics talks through emerging trends from the data

A special virtual meeting of members of the NAFD Executive was held on 03 June, with Andrew Lilico of Europe Economics, in which he talked through the emerging trends and indicators from the scenario models of the mortality rate that he and his team have developed for the NAFD.

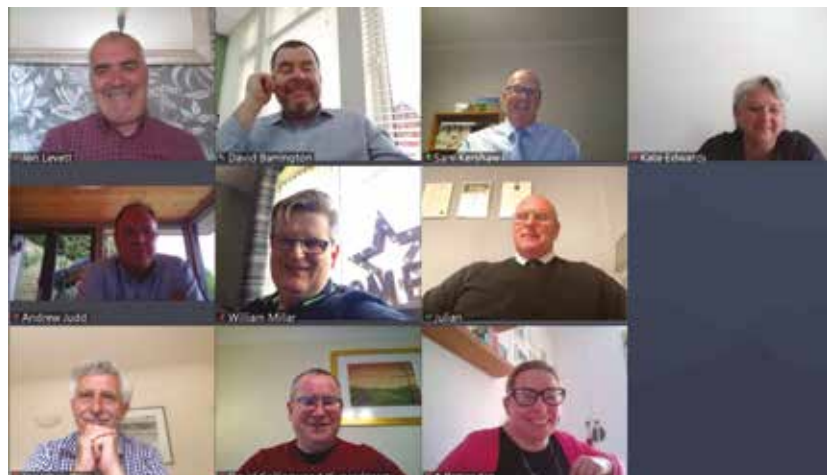
Chief Executive Officer Jon Levett explained how, during weekly Cabinet Office calls, he had felt frustrated with only having access to general information around the Government's modelling. Knowing how important the information was to enable funeral homes to plan ahead, it was this that led him to commission Europe Economics - which is already working with the NAFD to understand the impact of the pandemic on the profession in the longer term - to undertake the scenario modelling.

The entire call was recorded to enable members to hear his presentation directly and was emailed to member firms on Thursday 04 June.

Following the presentation, there was a discussion on a wide range of topics, including:-

- whether a scientific consensus has emerged around which model is the more accurate one;
- to what extent the current death rate could be attributed to "catching up" from what was a low death rate year in 2019;
- the likely impact on future years deaths, and potential for additional deaths for cancer and other conditions due to lack of treatment;
- how the different lockdown approaches of the devolved governments is factored into the work;
- the difference between the "more successful" lifting of lockdown and the "less successful" lifting of lockdown.

To view the video, please check the email sent to member firms on 04 June, or email info@nafd.org.uk to ask for a link to be sent to you.



▲ Members of the NAFD Executive during their virtual meeting with Europe Economics

COVID-19 timeline continued

22 May

Updated modelling scenarios released to members along with additional guidance on the processing of Funeral Expense Payment claims.

NAFD members encouraged to write to their Member of Parliament to call for a Crisis Funeral Loan.

23 May

Coverage on the BBC featuring William Purves in Scotland, and Freeman Brothers in Sussex, highlights the personal care and attention of funeral directors in supporting families through restricted funeral services.

27 May

The NAFD's Northern Ireland Area Federation meets by Zoom to discuss the pandemic, with NAFD Chief Executive Officer Jon Levett in attendance.

28 May

The Competition and Markets Authority announces a revised timetable - with the NAFD raising concerns about the feasibility of funeral firms being able to respond at this time.

29 May

NAFD members invited to register to vote by proxy for the 2020 Annual General Meeting being held on 25 June.

3 June

NAFD Executive holds virtual briefing with Andrew Lilico, of Europe Economics, to discuss emerging trends from scenario modelling slides.