

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL
CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Item No 3

15 August 2020

DEPUTATION REQUESTS

Subject	Deputation
3.1 In relation to Item 7.1 on the agenda - Cemetery Tour Guide Operator Registration Scheme – Report by the Executive Director of Place	Scottish Tourist Guides' Association



Scottish Tourist Guides Association

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Mr Beattie
Edinburgh Council
Culture and communities Committee

11 Sept 2020

Dear Mr Beattie

Cemetery Tour Operators Registration Scheme 2020

We are writing to you in respect to the proposed scheme for Cemetery Tour Operators and understand that you would be agreeable to have a conversation about the implications and implementation of it. (The Chair of the Edinburgh branch of STGA has informed us of your correspondence with him.)

STGA (Scottish Tourist Guides Association) and Mercat Tours has had a long working relationship and both organisations fully understand the need for this scheme. With the aim to support a successful scheme, we would like to raise a number of questions with regards implementation and potential partiality which could jeopardize the intention behind the proposal.

We would welcome a zoom meeting on the following as soon as can be possible about;

- How will the scheme be managed on a day to day basis? Will there be attendants on site ensuring the code of conduct is adhered to and all guides are part of the scheme?
- Will all tour operators, from all countries, be obliged to be part of the scheme? If so how will this be managed?
- How will the Code of Conduct and registration fee be applied to operators not using CEC cemeteries? Presumably this is further revenue the Council would welcome and drive up quality of experience for all, whilst avoiding a '2 tier', biased approach to businesses.
- STGA guides are self employed. Most will be taking tours on behalf of a tour operator as part of itinerary. Some will be working as driver guides for small parties or their own tours. Can STGA members, wearing an easily recognisable badge be included with one payment from STGA of £175?

Both Mercat tours and STGA understand the need to control and management of visitor numbers to Cemetery sites, and are supportive of your action with this scheme. We would welcome the opportunity of a representative from our professional organisations to discuss these points of concern we have.

Yours sincerely



STGA is a member of the European Federation
of Tourist Guide Associations (FEG)



STGA is a member of the World Federation
of Tourist Guide Associations (WFTGA)



Linda Arthur
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