

Minister for Public Health and Women's Health  
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Citizen Participation and Public Petitions  
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5 December 2025

Dear Convenor

### **PE2084: Allow alkaline hydrolysis**

Public petition PE2084 called on the Scottish Parliament to “urge the Scottish Government to amend the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 to allow alkaline hydrolysis, accelerated composting and other more eco-friendly methods of disposal of human cadavers”.

Section 99 of the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 (‘the 2016 Act’) allows Scottish Ministers to extend the provisions of the 2016 Act to alternative methods of body disposal.

I am pleased to confirm that today, 3 December 2025, the Scottish Government laid The Hydrolysis (Scotland) (No. 1) Regulations 2026 and the Hydrolysis (Scotland) (No. 2) Regulations 2026 were laid in the Scottish Parliament this morning to allow hydrolysis as an alternative method of disposal of human remains in Scotland.

[The Hydrolysis \(Scotland\) \(No. 1\) Regulations 2026](#)  
[The Hydrolysis \(Scotland\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2026](#)

The draft Regulations will be considered by the Parliament and if passed will come into force on 2 March 2026. The Regulations set out the administrative procedures for applying for disposal by hydrolysis, requirements imposed on hydrolysis authorities, applications and registers.

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

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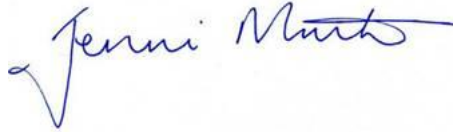
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Importantly the Hydrolysis (Scotland) (No. 2) Regulations 2026 will set out clear requirements and procedures for the recovery, handling and return of hydrolysis powder in the same way as the ashes handling procedures following cremation set out in the Cremation (Scotland) Regulations 2019.

Yours sincerely/Regards,



**Jenni Minto MSP**

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