

# Scottish Government submission of 7 March 2024

## PE2084/A: Allow alkaline hydrolysis

Thank you for your email of 20 February 2024 to the Committee liaison officer, seeking views on Petition PE2084 “Calling 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”.

I am responding as Deputy Director for the Public Health Capabilities Division, with responsibility for the overarching policy governing the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 (‘the 2016 Act’). Section 99 of the [2016](#) Act allows Scottish Ministers to extend the provisions of the Act to alternative methods of body disposal and therefore does not need to be amended to allow for the kinds of methods noted in the petition.

On 25 August 2023, the Scottish Government issued a consultation on proposals to regulate alkaline hydrolysis (water cremation) as an alternative method of disposal of human remains in Scotland. The consultation closed on 17 November 2023 and the responses are currently being analysed, and will inform the Scottish Government’s next steps for regulation. The analysis of the responses will be published on the Scottish Government website as soon as practicably possible.

**Population Health Directorate**