



The Cost of Saying Goodbye 2016

Burial and cremation charges in Scotland

September 2016

Summary of findings



Burial charges have increased on average by 8% in 2016 when compared to 2015 levels.

- The highest increase was in North Lanarkshire where fees increased by 39% to £1,727
- The City of Edinburgh is the most expensive place in Scotland for a burial where charges have increased by 4% to £2,253
- The Western Isles remain for the third year running the cheapest place in Scotland for a burial at £701, an increase of 1% on 2015 charges
- One local authority cut charges (East Dunbartonshire) by 25% to £2,089

Cremation charges have increased on average by 11% in 2016 when compared to 2015 levels.

- The highest increase was in Highland where the charge increased 59% to £849
- This also makes Highland the most expensive local authority run crematorium in Scotland and the only one charging more than £800
- Inverclyde is the cheapest local authority for a cremation in Scotland despite a 8% increase in fees where charges are £552
- The most expensive privately owned crematoriums are in Dundee and Moray where an adult cremation costs £934

Cremation fees are around 50% cheaper than those for burials resulting in an average cost difference of £704

Costs levied by local authorities can increase for a number of reasons, some have made substantial investment in new crematorium or graveyards while others have looked to reduce current subsidies as a result of tighter budgets.

The postcode lottery nature of burial and cremation fees remains widespread across Scotland:

- Burials vary by as much as £1,552 between councils
- Cremations vary by as much as £382 between crematoriums

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Local Authority Burial charges in 2016

Rank	Council	Total Burial 2016	Change15/16	Change %
1	City of Edinburgh	£2,253.00	£91.00	4%
2	East Dunbartonshire	£2,088.75	-£696.25	-25%
3	City of Glasgow	£2,040.00	£60.00	3%
4	South Lanarkshire	£1,944.70	£61.70	3%
5	Stirling	£1,815.00	£36.00	2%
6	Perth and Kinross	£1,746.00	£0.00	0%
7	North Lanarkshire	£1,727.00	£481.00	39%
8	Scottish Borders	£1,670.08	£352.08	27%
9	Moray	£1,441.00	£68.00	5%
10	Aberdeenshire	£1,430.00	£19.00	1%
11	South Ayrshire	£1,430.00	£204.00	17%
12	Clackmannanshire	£1,429.00	£285.42	25%
13	City of Aberdeen	£1,427.00	£0.00	0%
14	Argyll and Bute	£1,383.00	£285.05	26%
15	Highland	£1,380.00	£343.00	33%
16	West Dunbartonshire	£1,364.00	£226.00	20%
	Scottish average	£1,363.68	£90.33	7%
17	Dumfries and Galloway	£1,310.00	£359.00	38%
18	East Lothian	£1,289.00	£19.00	1%
19	Fife	£1,184.00	£29.00	3%
20	Angus	£1,190.90	£30.00	3%
21	City of Dundee	£1,175.00	£24.00	2%
22	Midlothian	£1,141.00	£139.82	14%
23	North Ayrshire	£1,140.00	£102.00	10%
24	Inverclyde	£1,093.80	£21.60	2%
25	Orkney	£1,079.00	£32.00	3%
26	West Lothian	£1,037.90	£49.42	5%
27	Falkirk	£979.00	£89.00	10%
28	East Ayrshire	£967.50	£23.50	2%
29	East Renfrewshire	£965.00	£107.00	12%
30	Renfrewshire	£916.20	£22.35	3%
31	Shetland	£900.00	£20.00	2%
32	Western Isles	£701.00	£7.00	1%

Local Authority Crematorium charges in 2016

Rank	Council	Cremation 2016	Change 16/15	Change %
1	Highland	£849.00	£315.00	59%
2	South Ayrshire	£788.00	£153.00	24%
3	Perth and Kinross	£749.00	£0.00	0%
4	City of Edinburgh	£708.00	£28.00	4%
5	City of Aberdeen	£693.00	£40.00	6%
	Scottish Average	£669.37	£67.97	11%
6	Fife	£642.00	£16.00	3%
7	Argyll and Bute	£628.00	£104.80	20%
8	West Dunbartonshire	£617.00	£24.00	4%
9	Falkirk	£608.00	£29.00	5%
10	South Lanarkshire	£599.40	£34.40	6%
11	City of Glasgow	£599.00	£31.00	5%
12	Inverclyde	£552.00	£40.40	8%

Private Crematorium charges in 2016

Rank	Private crematoriums	Cremation 2016	Change 16/15	Change %
1	Dundee	£934.00	£51.00	6%
2	Moray	£934.00	£44.00	5%
3	Parkgrove, Angus	£930.00	£47.00	5%
4	Holmsford Bridge, Irvine	£815.00	£37.00	5%
5	Baldarroch Crematorium*	£795.00		
	Scottish Average	£773.55	£38.63	5%
6	West Lothian	£770.00	£35.00	5%
7	Melrose Crematorium*	£770.00		
8	Roucan Loch, Dumfries	£745.00	£30.00	4%
9	Holytown	£736.00	£35.00	5%
10	Houndwood Crematorium*	£720.00		
11	Craigtown, Glasgow	£705.00	£66.00	10%
12	Seafield, Edinburgh	£685.00	£0.00	0%
13	Warriston, Edinburgh	£685.00	£0.00	0%
14	Paisley	£570.00	-£30.00	-5%

* 2016 first year charges surveyed



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