

## Funeral Service Times

For everyone in the funeral profession

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## Why back 'the BRITs'?

With inbound repatriation rates often in excess of 300 per cent of outbound rates, British families face huge costs at a time of grief.

Key Air & Sea, the UK's no.1 independent IATA repatriation agent, has launched 'the BRITs Campaign' (Beat Repatriation Inequality Together) to show airlines that UK Funeral Directors are concerned about the high charges that they are forced to pass on to families, and to persuade airlines to reduce them.

Both the National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD) and the Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors (SAIF) have added their support to the BRITs.

'When the original IATA charging system was drawn up, repatriation by air was a rarity. Nowadays there are thousands of people repatriated every year, and the airlines need to re-evaluate their charges. It is time to make that change happen,' says Barry Birdsall, MD of Key Air & Sea Ltd.

Airlines adopting a fair and equal approach to charging will be named as BRITs Champions. The BRITs petition can be signed on-line at [www.backthebrits.com](http://www.backthebrits.com)

For further information about the BRITs please call 020 8756 0500



## New software for the funeral trade

Funeral Connect launched its web-based funeral management software at this year's National Funeral Exhibition - an innovative system giving the funeral director complete control over the entire process of organising a funeral.

As it is web-based, it is available 24/7 and accessible from any internet connected computer at any time. It is a low cost system based on a cost for each funeral. Clients will never need to incur any hardware, security, back up or maintenance costs. All the information about all funerals will be automatically archived for future access. Existing data on other software may be transferable.

The system is easy to use and guides funeral directors through the whole process, where security is a priority. It is based on a Microsoft platform and is backed with helpdesk support.

Marianne McCarthy, the Managing Partner, was bowled over by the enthusiastic response over the three days of the NFE. "I think that the popularity of our product is, in part, due to the fact that potential clients will be given free month-long trials. In addition there is no minimum contract - you pay as you go."

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