



Department  
for Transport

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Our Ref: 225316  
Your Ref:

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John Porter

Dear Mr John Porter,

### **Cremated human remains (ashes) & UK airport security**

Many thanks for your email.

With regard to the carriage of human ashes on board an aircraft, most passenger would usually wish to carry them in Cabin Baggage to ensure their safety, although they may be packed in hold baggage as well. As all items that are going into the Departure Lounge must be screened, ashes should not be placed in any container/urn that x-ray equipment cannot 'see through'; so containers made with wood, ceramic or cardboard or clear plastic are best. All such containers must be sealed. Brass can also be problematic for the screener which would lead to the container being rejected, so all metallic containers are best avoided.

Security Officers will not open containers or urns out of respect for the deceased, so it is really important that containers made from organic material or clear plastic are used to avoid them being refused entry into the Departure Lounge. All passengers are advised to carry documentation in the form of a Death Certificate and confirmation from the crematorium of the cremation of that individual, and also to divest the container from their bag so that it is screened separately. This makes the journey through security less stressful for the passenger carrying the ashes.

The guidance above is applicable to all airports in the UK.

I hope you find this information useful.

Kind regards,  
Charles Odukoya.