

Subject: Request for information regarding COVID-19 deaths.

FOI reference: 202200272416

Date received: 13 January 2022

Date responded: 31 January 2022

Information requested:

Request for the recorded date when the NRS recorded deaths from COVID-19 as the primary cause of death as a separate statistic from the all cause COVID-19 deaths that are sourced from the death certificates where COVID-19 is mentioned on the death certificates.

NRS Response:

The terminology which NRS uses, and which is recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO), is underlying cause rather than primary cause of death. Information is provided on our website on how death certificates are completed and the different bases for reporting figures on cause of death [Death Certificates and Coding the Causes of Death | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/information-coding-the-causes-of-death)

We first published figures on the number of deaths where COVID-19 was the underlying cause of death on 22 of April 2020. Please refer to page 11 of the publication linked here: [Report \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/publications/reports)

An archived list of all weekly COVID-19 deaths publications is available on our website via the following link: [Archive | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/information-archiving)