

Subject: Request for information where the death involved COVID-19 for March 2020 – February 2022.

FOI reference: 202200281489

Date received: 15 February 2022

Date responded: 08 March 2022

Information requested:

“- The average age of death from COVID-19 for the period of March 2020 to February 2022 and average national life expectancy in Scotland, both broken down by gender

- The number of covid deaths in Scotland with COVID-19 as the underlying cause on the death certificate, and the number of COVID-19 deaths in Scotland with COVID-19 mentioned elsewhere on the death certificate such as a secondary cause.”

NRS Response:

Between March 2020 and February 2022, the average age of death where the death involved COVID-19 was 81.4 for females and 77.1 for males. For life expectancy, [the most recent figures go up to only December 2020](#). National Records of Scotland does not have comparable data over the same period for that yet. It is also worth noting that average age at death and life expectancy are not the same thing, and caution is advised against making direct comparisons. This is due to the fact that life expectancy takes into account population structure by age and sex, whereas average age is just a crude average of the data. While our aim is to provide information whenever possible in this instance NRS does not have all of the information requested. The reasons why this information is unavailable is explained in the Annex to this letter.

For the second part of your question, this information can be found in table 9 of the regular weekly COVID-19 deaths publication which is available online: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/covid19/covid-deaths-22-data-week-08.xlsx>. The information you have requested is available from the NRS website and a direct link has been provided. Under section 25(1) of FOISA, NRS does not have to provide you with information if it is already reasonably accessible to you.

Annex - Reasons for not providing information

National Records of Scotland (NRS) does not have the information

This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that National Records of Scotland does not have the information you have requested.

NRS does not have the information you have requested because we have not gone through the process of collating, analysing and quality assuring the National Statistics publication of life expectancy for Scotland for 2021 and 2022. This will next be published for data including 2021 in September of 2022.