

Subject: Request for a breakdown of data regarding deaths involving COVID-19.

FOI reference: 202100211332

Date received: 9 June 2021

Date responded: 24 June 2021

Information requested:

You asked:

“1. How many people in Scotland have died from SARS - CoV - 2 alone in total from February 2020 - June 2021 ? This should not include people with underlying conditions & within a 28 day period from any other circumstances. i.e, car crash, broken neck, heart attack, cancer etc. I would request that this information be broken down into the following categories :

(A) By region

(B) In hospital & what hospital for these numbers

(C) care homes

2. Total deaths in Scotland for the following years : 2015 – 2021

3. Total deaths in care homes for the following years 2015 – 2021

4. How many burials & cremations have there been in Scotland for the following years : 2015 – 2021

5. How many people in Scotland have died within a 28 day period from having any Covid vaccine ?

6. Can the Scottish government provide 100% accurate evidence that the SARS - CoV - 2 virus has been isolated using Koch's postulates ?

7. How many people in Scotland have committed suicide in Scotland for the following years : 2015 – 2021”

NRS Response:

1. For the information you require please see the following ad-hoc tables which outline deaths involving COVID-19 by pre-existing conditions by health board and location of death from March 2020 to May 2021.

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/covid19/weekly-deaths-pre-existing-conditions-by-health-board.xlsx>

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/covid19/weekly-deaths-pre-existing-conditions-by-location.xlsx>

Please see the figures with no pre-existing conditions. The deaths in this category are where COVID-19 was the only cause of death on the death certificate or where any other conditions on the death certificate were a direct cause of COVID-19.

Please note these tables are updated on a monthly basis. The next update on 14 July 2021 will include figures up to June 2021.

The information you have requested is available from our website and we have provided you with direct links. Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we do not have to provide you with information if it is already reasonably accessible to you.

For figures by individual hospitals please find the attached table which outlines deaths involving COVID-19 with no pre-existing conditions occurring in hospitals.

2. For annual figures please see our reference tables, specifically section 5 which can be found here [List of Data Tables | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/vital-events-ref-tables/2019/vital-events-19-ref-tabs-5.xlsx). Table 5.03 outlines the total deaths registered in Scotland from 1971-2019 <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/vital-events-ref-tables/2019/vital-events-19-ref-tabs-5.xlsx>.

For deaths registered in 2020 and 2021, please find our monthly tables [Monthly Data on Births and Deaths Registered in Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/vital-events-ref-tables/2020/monthly-data-on-births-and-deaths-registered-in-scotland-2020-01-2020-12.xlsx) which outline deaths registered by health board, council area and cause of death. For a weekly breakdown of registered deaths please see [Weekly Data on Births and Deaths Registered in Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/vital-events-ref-tables/2020/weekly-data-on-births-and-deaths-registered-in-scotland-2020-01-2020-12.xlsx). Please note that the figures for 2020 and 2021 are provisional.

The information you have requested is available from our website and we have provided you with direct links. Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we do not have to provide you with information if it is already reasonably accessible to you.

3. Please find the following table <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/covid19/location-death-year-2010-2019.xlsx> which outlines deaths by location from 2010 – 2019. For the location of deaths registered in 2020 and 2021 please see our weekly COVID-19 publication found here [Deaths involving coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/covid19/covid-deaths-21-data-week-23.xlsx). Please find Table 2 (2020) and Table 2 (2020) in the accompanying spreadsheet <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/covid19/covid-deaths-21-data-week-23.xlsx> which include breakdowns of the location of death for total deaths registered in Scotland. Please note the figures for 2020 and 2021 are provisional and subject to change.

The information you have requested is available from our website and we have provided you with direct links. Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we do not have to provide you with information if it is already reasonably accessible to you.

4. While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance National Records of Scotland (NRS) does not have the information you have requested. We publish death statistics for Scotland based on the information supplied when a death is registered. Unfortunately, we do not hold information about burial or cremation, as this is not supplied during the registration of a death. You may wish to contact the Cremation Society of Great Britain who record the number of cremations across the whole of the UK each year, broken down by crematorium. More information can be found on the statistics page on their [website](#).

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

5. Our aim is to provide information whenever possible. However, in this instance, the information you have requested is not held by National Records of Scotland. The figures we hold are based on information recorded on the death certificate and so we do not hold information regarding the specific vaccination history of the deceased. May we suggest contacting Public Health Scotland on PHS.FOI@phs.scot who may be able to help you.

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

We do however hold figures on deaths where 'COVID-19 vaccines causing adverse effects in therapeutic use, unspecified' was mentioned on the death certificate. Please see Table 12 in our monthly COVID-19 report <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/statistics/covid19/covid-deaths-21-data-week-23.xlsx>. From the table you can see that up to 31 May 2021 there have been 4 deaths in Scotland where this code was mentioned on the death certificate.

6. While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance National Records of Scotland (NRS) does not have the information you have requested. We publish death statistics for Scotland based on the information supplied when a death is registered. May we suggest contacting the Scottish Government on ceu@gov.scot who may be able to help you.

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

7. The information you have requested for 2015-2019 is available on our website [Probable Suicides: Deaths which are the Result of Intentional Self-harm or Events of](#)

[Undetermined Intent | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk). For an outline of the figures please see the accompanying excel table found here <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/probable-suicides/2019/suicides-19-all-tabs.xlsx>.

Most of the information you have requested on suicide numbers is available from our website and we have provided you with direct links. Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we do not have to provide you with information if it is already reasonably accessible to you.

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance we are unable to provide the information you have requested on suicide numbers for 2020 and 2021 because exemptions under sections 27(1) (information held with a view to publication) and section 17 (information not held) of FOISA apply to that information. The reasons why these exemptions apply are explained in the Annex to this letter.

Annex - Reasons for not providing information

An exemption applies

Section 27(1) – information intended for future publication

An exemption under section 27(1) (Information held with a view to publication) of FOISA applies to the data you have requested for 2020.

We plan to publish suicide statistics for 2020 in August 2021. As this is within 12 weeks of the date of your request, it falls under section 27(1). We consider that it is reasonable to withhold the information until this date, rather than release the information before the planned publication dates.

This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. We recognise that there is a public interest in release and this will be met by our planned public release. In the meantime, there is a greater public interest in taking the time necessary to ensure the information has been finalised first and then collated and checked before it is made available as planned.

Section 17(1) – information not held

An exemption under section 17 (information not held) of FOISA applies to the data you have requested for 2021.

The same statistics for 2021 will not be published until June 2022. We rely on information from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) following their investigations into sudden, suspicious and accidental deaths. This can take a number of months to come through. We therefore do not yet have the information required to answer your request.

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