

**Subject:** Further request for information in relation to online feature 'Scotland's People and the First World War'

**FOI reference:** 202000064355

**Date received:** 21 July 2020

**Date responded:** 7 August 2020

**Information requested:**

Further request for information in relation to online feature 'Scotland's People and the First World War':

1. "Does The SNP Government and SNP Government department fully endorse the robustness and quality of data that originates from the SNWM.ORG ?"
2. "What checks and balances have been taken to ensure the public that your figures of 135,000 Scottish WW1 deaths are genuine?"
3. "Who verified the figure of 135,000 Scottish WW1 Deaths?"
4. "Why do you refuse to include the real figures of 74,000 WW1 deaths attributed to Scotland from 1921 census (or even acknowledge such figure exists) on your publicly funded website?"

**NRS Response:**

The answer to the questions are:

1. While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance National Records of Scotland (NRS) does not have the information requested. Please note that NRS is a Non Ministerial Office of the Scottish Administration, but not part of the Scottish Government. Therefore this question would need to be directed to the Scottish Government.

You can make a request to the Scottish Government by contacting their Central Enquiry Unit (CEU).

The contact details for the CEU are:

Email: [ceu@gov.scot](mailto:ceu@gov.scot)  
General Enquiries Scottish Government  
St. Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

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

2. We contacted the Scottish National War Memorial (SNWM) to confirm the change in their figures and how this was calculated. We received the following response:

“The revised figure reflected those casualties that were “double counted” due to appearing in more than one Roll of Honour. Frequently soldiers served in more than one Regiment during the course of World War One. When they died they were recorded in the Rolls of the Regiments they served in – hence they were “double counted”.

For clarity, the names of those “Scots” recorded includes:

- Those born in Scotland.
- Those of Scottish heritage by having a Scottish mother or father.
- Those who died in a Scottish Regiment regardless of nationality.

The Rolls of Honour are and will remain a living document. New names are continually added as evidence is presented. 2018 was an exceptional year when all the coverage of the centenary of the end of WW1 brought about an upsurge in genealogy uncovering casualties that should have been included in the Rolls. Consequently over 100 names were added during the course of 2018. In the course of a normal year 5-10 names are normally added. As to WW2, I can only imagine that casualty recording was better than it was in WW1 as I rarely receive requests for names from that conflict to be added.”

As stated these figures are subject to change as more people come forward and research is undertaken. To submit research to the Scottish National War Memorial, please contact them directly at [info@snwm.org](mailto:info@snwm.org).

3. As stated in the response from the Scottish National War Memorial (SNWM) above, the 135,000 figure is subject to change as more research is undertaken and submitted to the SNWM.

4. This was answered in our response to an initial query (our reference: FoI/2020000033321) and the information released in response to that Freedom of Information request was published on our website here:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/record-keeping/legislation/primary-information-legislation/freedom-of-information/foieir-releases>