

Subject: Request for information on deaths covering period from March to July 2020.

FOI reference: 202000071284

Date received: 5 August 2020

Date responded: 21 August 2020

Information requested:

1. Amount of Deaths per day for the date range 01/03/2020 to 31/07/2020
2. Amount of Deaths per day stamped/marked with COVID-19 as the cause of death
3. Amount of Deaths per day with a Death Certificate issued
4. Amount of Death Certificates issued per day with a cause of death stamped/marked as being COVID-19
5. As above but with the following information available for filtering purposes: Sex, Age, Race, Post Code of deceased to unit level”

NRS Response:

Items 1 and 3 and similarly 2 and 4 are effectively the same as far as the data we hold is concerned because we only receive data on a death once a death certificate is issued. We have therefore focused on items 3, 4 and 5 only. Please note that the first mention of COVID-19 in a registered death certificate was the week beginning 16th March 2020.

3. This information is set out in the attached spreadsheet.

4. This information is available from our latest publication “Deaths involving coronavirus (COVID-19) in Scotland, Week 32” which can be downloaded via the following link: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/covid19stats>. The figures needed are in figure 8 of the “data and charts” spreadsheet

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/covid19/covid-deaths-data-week-32.xlsx>

5. The publication includes a breakdown by age and sex. Please refer to tables 1 and 2 via the link above. For a breakdown by ethnicity, please download the report via the attached link: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/vital-events/deaths/deaths-background-information/ethnicity-of-the-deceased-person#covid>. Finally, we have not released any data at unit postcode level due to concerns about data confidentiality. However, we have produced a breakdown of COVID-19 deaths at a low level geography (intermediate zone). This is in table S8 of the “additional analysis” spreadsheet here <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/covid19/covid-deaths-extra-tables-week-32.xlsx>

Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we do not have to provide information if it is already reasonably accessible.