

Subject: Request for date of decision to amend reporting frequency of COVID-19 deaths.

FOI reference: 202000091955

Date received: 27 September 2020

Date responded: 23 October 2020

Information requested:

“The recorded date (on NRS systems) when the decision was made to report monthly mortality statistics for “deaths associated with COVID-19” rather than weekly statistics.”

NRS Response:

National Records of Scotland (NRS) continues to report a weekly figure on deaths involving COVID-19. These data can be found in the SG ‘4 Harms’ website alongside other relevant information here:

<https://data.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/detail.html>

NRS also continues to publish a detailed analysis of COVID-19 related deaths on a monthly basis – this product also provides the weekly data.

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

In accordance with the Official Statistics Code of Practice, decisions on frequency of publication are made by the Head of Profession (Statistics). National Records of Scotland consulted with users of the weekly publication, including Scottish Government. NRS concluded that due to the thankfully low number of weekly deaths, user needs would be well met through the update to the SG website and the NRS monthly publication. The last weekly NRS publication was released on 12 August 2020.

NRS will consider re-introducing a weekly publication on their website should there be any significant changes in the spread or impact of COVID-19.