

**Subject:** Request for information on underlying causes of death in Scotland in 2020.

**FOI reference:** 202000097948

**Date received:** 13 October 2020

**Date responded:** 2 November 2020

**Information requested:**

1. "A breakdown of the underlying causes of death for all deaths registered in Scotland in 2020.
2. A breakdown of the underlying causes registered on deaths with Covid-19 in 2020."

**NRS Response:**

The information for the first question can be found on our website in our publication "Births, Deaths and other Vital events, Quarterly Figures"

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/vital-events/general-publications/births-deaths-and-other-vital-events-quarterly-figures>

The information for the second question is contained in the attached excel spreadsheet.

The table details deaths by underlying cause. In cases where COVID-19 was the underlying cause of death this does not mean that there were no underlying health conditions, but that COVID-19 was "(a) the disease or injury which initiated the chain of morbid events leading directly to death or (b) the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury". More information on how the cause of death is determined is available on our website:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/vital-events/deaths/deaths-background-information/death-certificates-and-coding-the-causes-of-death/the-medical-certificate-of-the-cause-of-death>

Our monthly deaths publication contains analysis of underlying conditions of those who died with COVID-19. Please refer to page 15 of our week 41 report for more information on this: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/vital-events/general-publications/weekly-and-monthly-data-on-births-and-deaths/deaths-involving-coronavirus-covid-19-in-scotland/archive>