

**Subject:** Request for death statistics for 2020 and 2021.

**FOI reference:** 202100240722

**Date received:** 15 September 2021

**Date responded:** 12 October 2021

**Information requested:**

NRS provides a weekly report on Deaths involving coronavirus (COVID-19) in Scotland.

Table 3 - Excess Deaths by underlying cause of death and location 2020 & 2021 includes a category of "Other Deaths" which (averaging over 280 deaths per week) account for almost 25% of all deaths.

In the same excel format as currently given by NRS, please provide a further breakdown of the cause of these deaths (i.e. Murder, road collision pedestrian, road collision driver, road collision passenger, etc.).

**NRS Response:**

Enclosed is a copy of some of the information requested. The numbers are too small and would not present a meaningful representation of excess deaths from these causes.

Instead we have attached annual figures along with the past five years' worth of data for deaths from these causes so that they can be compared to the five year average.

It is also unclear which other causes of deaths you wish to be included. Deaths from assault have been included (which is the closest representation of "murder" in our tables), and deaths from traffic accidents (for both pedestrians and car occupants). Other figures for causes of death can be found in Table 6.01 of the Vital Events reference tables on our website. This can be accessed at:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/vital-events-ref-tables/2020/vital-events-20-ref-tabs-6.xlsx>

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance we are unable to provide detailed cause of death data for 2021. This is because the detailed cause of death breakdowns have not yet been finalised. It is currently scheduled for release in June 2022. Cause of death data remains provisional and subject to change until it is "frozen" for the year once NRS has collected all data. Some causes of death can also change if we are awaiting further information from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) or from the reporting doctor. We make provisional (high-level) data for cause of death available in our weekly mortality publication and in our monthly and quarterly publications, but the level of detail

required for this request means that we cannot answer fully for 2021 until all the data has been collected and finalised.

This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that National Records of Scotland does not have the information requested for 2021.