

Subject: Request for information on number of deaths in Scotland during January - March for the years 2018-2020.

FOI reference: Fol/202000024367

Date received: 31 March 2020

Date responded: 30 April 2020

Information requested:

Total number of deaths for January - March 2018, 2019, 2020 and daily death rates during March and the 'Classification of Deaths in February & March between "Coronavirus Deaths" and "Normal Deaths"'.

NRS Response:

The total number of deaths in Scotland during January, February and March for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 is available on the NRS website:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/vital-events/general-publications/weekly-and-monthly-data-on-births-and-deaths/monthly-data-on-births-and-deaths-registered-in-scotland>

We are also now publishing weekly statistics and information on death involving COVID-19 in Scotland:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/covid19stats>

The first mention of COVID-19 in a registered death certificate was the week beginning 16 March 2020. In the Data and Charts, Figure 1 data shows the cumulative number of deaths by date of registration involving COVID-19 from this date.

We attach a copy of the information requested on daily death rates during March. Please note these numbers may be slightly different to the weekly all-cause totals published in the weekly Covid-19 statistics as the two sets of figures were produced on different days. We receive death data, including corrections or amendments, on a daily basis.

Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we do not have to provide information if it is already reasonably accessible by inspection or copying, even if a payment has to be made for it.