

**Subject:** Request for clarification of the COVID-19 cause of death category

**FOI reference:** 202100174054

**Date received:** 11 March 2021

**Date responded:** 19 March 2021

**Information requested:**

“Within the Deaths in Scotland by month of registration and cause of death, 2000-2020 report (attached), there are 4 different categories of causes of death – malignant neoplasms, diseases of the circulatory system, diseases of the respiratory system and other causes.

Could you please confirm what category COVID-19 deaths are placed into? Is it diseases of the respiratory system or other causes? “

**NRS Response:**

The table 5 on ‘[Deaths in Scotland by month of registration and cause of death, 2000 to 2021](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/weekly-monthly-births-deaths-data/2021/feb/monthly-february-21-tab-5.xlsx)’ available at <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/weekly-monthly-births-deaths-data/2021/feb/monthly-february-21-tab-5.xlsx> referred to does include deaths involving COVID-19. Deaths where COVID-19 was the underlying cause of death will be included in the ‘other causes’ category in this table, not under the ‘Disease of the respiratory system’ category. More information on how deaths are classified into groups can be found here: [ICD-10 Version:2019 \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241565717)