

**Subject:** Request for statistics on deaths during the period 01 January 2020 to 31 March 2021.

**FOI reference:** 202100196686

**Date received:** 22 April 2021

**Date responded:** 20 May 2021

**Information requested:**

- 1) How many people died (all ages and from all causes except covid) in Scotland from the period Jan 1st 2020-March 31st 2021?
- 2) What were the causes of death within this group?
- 3) How many people died with covid on the death certificate (verified with testing, not "suspected") with 1 comorbidity in Scotland, from the period Jan 1st 2020-March 31st 2021, and what were their ages?
- 4) How many people died with covid on the death certificate (verified with testing, not "suspected") with 2 comorbidities in Scotland, from the period Jan 1st 2020-March 31st 2021, and what were their ages?
- 5) How many people died with covid on the death certificate (verified with testing, not "suspected") with 3 or more comorbidities in Scotland, from the period Jan 1st 2020-March 31st 2021, and what were their ages?
- 6) How many people died with covid only on the death certificate (verified with testing, not "suspected") and had no other comorbidity in Scotland, from the period Jan 1st 2020-March 31st 2021, and what were their ages?
- 7) How many people have died within 28 of receiving either the first or both doses of any of the available covid vaccines in Scotland, from the period Jan 1st 2020-March 31st 2021, and what were their ages?
- 8) Of this group, how many died with no comorbidities and how many had at least 1?

**NRS Response:**

1) For the information you require please find Table 5 in our monthly Covid-19 publication, the most recent of which can be found here: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/covid19/covid-deaths-21-data-week-14.xlsx>. This table includes a monthly breakdown of both rates and number of deaths for deaths involving Covid-19, deaths where Covid-19 was the underlying cause of death and all deaths registered. For the core figures please see the right side of the table. Please see the column at the end which includes the total figures for the period March 2020 to March 2021 combined.

2) For a breakdown of all deaths registered in Scotland by cause, please see our monthly tables [Monthly Data on Births and Deaths Registered in Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/weekly-monthly-births-deaths-data/2021/mar/monthly-march-21-tab-5.xlsx). May I direct you specifically to Table 5 <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/weekly-monthly-births-deaths-data/2021/mar/monthly-march-21-tab-5.xlsx> which outlines deaths registered in Scotland by month of registration and cause of death from 2000 to 2021. Please note the figures for 2020 and 2021 are provisional.

The information you have requested in questions 1 and 2 is available from our website and we have provided you with direct links. Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we do not have to provide you with information if it is already reasonably accessible to you.

3-6) Please see the accompanying table which outlines a breakdown of deaths involving Covid-19 by the number of conditions mentioned on the death certificate for deaths registered between 1 January 2020 and 31 March 2021. Please note that the figures for a single condition are those where COVID is the only condition mentioned, two conditions are COVID plus 1 comorbidity, three conditions are COVID plus 2 comorbidities, etc.

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible in this instance National Records of Scotland does not have some of the information you have requested in questions 3-6. Please note the figures we publish are based on information recorded on the death certificates and not on positive testing.

At the start of the pandemic the chief medical officer issued guidance to medical practitioners on death certification of coronavirus which can be found here <https://www.bma.org.uk/media/2214/chief-medical-officer-in-scotland-letter-about-death-certification-during-covid-19-pandemic-march-2020.pdf>. Evidence of a positive test is not required before it can be entered on the death certificate. Doctors can write suspected or probable Covid-19 on the death certificate without a test having been done if, in their professional opinion, they believed the deceased had Covid-19. For this reason we do not hold the specific information you require on deaths following a positive test. May we suggest contacting Public Health Scotland on [PHS.FOI@phs.scot](mailto:PHS.FOI@phs.scot) for this information.

This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that National Records of Scotland does not have the specific information you have requested on deaths following a positive test.

7-8) NRS does not hold information on the vaccination status of individuals so we are unable to provide this information. You may wish to contact Public Health Scotland on [PHS.FOI@phs.scot](mailto:PHS.FOI@phs.scot) to see if they are able to provide it.

This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that National Records of Scotland does not have the information you have requested in questions 7 and 8.