

Subject: Number of suicides in Scotland from 2012 to 2019.

FOI reference: FOI/19/00414

Date received: 11 February 2019

Date responded: 28 February 2019

Information requested:

Information on the number of suicides in Scotland broken down by

1. region and year from 2012 to 2019 and
2. people employed as farmers or employed in the agricultural industry, broken down by region and year from 2012 to 2019.

NRS Response:

We have provided statistics on the number of people in Scotland who have committed suicide, broken down by region and year from 2012 to 2017 (see attachment).

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance National Records of Scotland (NRS) does not have all of the information requested because statistics on probable suicides for 2018 and 2019 have not yet been produced. The statistics for 2018 will be published in June 2019 and the statistics for 2019 are likely to be published in June 2020.

This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that NRS does not have some the information you have requested.

While we have provided statistics on the number of people employed as farmers or employed in the agricultural industry who have committed suicide from 2012 to 2017(see attachment), we are unable to provide a regional breakdown.

We are unable to provide figures for probable suicides of people employed as farmers or employed in the agricultural industry by council areas as the numbers involved are low and could disclose sensitive details about individuals. An exemption under section 38(1)(b) (personal information) of FOISA applies to that information, and disclosing it would contravene the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation and in section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018.

This exemption is not subject to the 'public interest test', so we are not required to consider if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption.