

Our ref: Fol/202100172206

J Grove

Email: request-734217-e1a2eb13@whatdotheyknow.com

29 March 2021

Dear J Grove,

Request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA)

Thank you for your request of 8 March 2021 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Your request

You asked us:

“Under FOISA 2002 will the NRS provide all of the recorded provisional excess mortality data by age group that has been calculated by the NRS for the year 2020? It is understood that this will be provisional data and could change with time.”

Response to your request

The information you require is included in the accompanying table. You should note that these figures are calculated by summing the weekly figures for the years in question. This will give a slightly different result than figures based on calendar years because the weeks at the beginning and end of a year can overlap with the previous and subsequent years. We do not plan to publish final figures for the calendar year 2020 until summer.

These figures were calculated using the following sources:

1) Please find the following table

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/covid19/weekly-deaths-by-health-board-age-group-and-sex-2015-2019.xlsx> which outlines weekly deaths registered in 2015 to 2019 by age group and sex. Please find the ‘Grand Total’ column in the pivot table for a total breakdown of deaths by age group. These figures were divided by 5 to calculate the mean values for the period 2015-2019, for each age group.

2) Following this, please also see the figures in the ‘Year to Date’ column in Table 2 (2020) of the weekly covid-19 publication found here

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/covid19/covid-deaths-21-data-week-09.xlsx> for the provisional total number of deaths registered in 2020 by age group.

From these figures, the figures calculated from the first table were deducted to find the excess deaths by age group.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your FOI request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to:

Information Governance Team
National Records of Scotland
Ladywell House
Ladywell Road
Edinburgh
EH12 7TF

Email: foi@nrscotland.gov.uk

Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review and tell you the result within 20 working days from the date when we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your rights is available on the Commissioner's website at:

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx>

Yours sincerely,

Lucy Pilkington
Assistant Statistician