

Our ref: Fol/202100240722

Robert Kennedy

Email: request-791824-796215e9@whatdotheyknow.com

12 October 2021

Dear Robert Kennedy,

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

Thank you for your request of 15 September 2021 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Your request

You asked for

“NRS provides a weekly report on Deaths involving coronavirus (COVID-19) in Scotland.

Table 3 - Excess Deaths by underlying cause of death and location 2020 & 2021 includes a category of "Other Deaths" which (averaging over 280 deaths per week) account for almost 25% of all deaths.

In the same excel format as currently given by NRS, please provide a further breakdown of the cause of these deaths (i.e. Murder, road collision pedestrian, road collision driver, road collision passenger, etc.).”

Response to your request

I enclose a copy of some of the information you requested, but due to the small numbers involved it does not make sense to try and look at weekly excess death figures as you have asked for. The numbers are too small and would not present a meaningful representation of excess deaths from these causes.

I have instead attached annual figures along with the past five years' worth of data for deaths from these causes so that they can be compared to the five year average.

It is also unclear which other causes of deaths you wish to be included, there are potentially hundreds of other things we could include. I have included deaths from assault (which is the closest representation of “murder” in our tables), and deaths from traffic accidents (for both pedestrians and car occupants. You can find other figures for causes of death in Table 6.01 of the Vital Events reference tables on our

website. This can be accessed at: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/vital-events-ref-tables/2020/vital-events-20-ref-tabs-6.xlsx>

You may also find it helpful to look at the Scottish Information Commissioner's 'Tips for requesting information under FOI and the EIRs' on their website at: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Tipsforrequesters.aspx>.

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance we are unable to provide detailed cause of death data for 2021. This is because the detailed cause of death breakdowns have not yet been finalised. It is currently scheduled for release in June 2022. Cause of death data remains provisional and subject to change until it is "frozen" for the year once NRS has collected all data. Some causes of death can also change if we are awaiting further information from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) or from the reporting doctor. We make provisional (high-level) data for cause of death available in our weekly mortality publication and in our monthly and quarterly publications, but the level of detail required for this request means that we cannot answer fully for 2021 until all the data has been collected and finalised.

This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that National Records of Scotland does not have the information you have requested for 2021.

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,

Daniel Burns
Senior Assistant Statistician