



Department of Health & Social Care

Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

www.gov.uk/dhsc

Dr George Cumming Thorburn
[request-703457-
1804c059@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-703457-1804c059@whatdotheyknow.com)

1 December 2020

Dear Dr Thorburn,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1268596

Thank you for your request dated 3 November 2020 in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

Freedom of Information request - Covid R Number data 2020

Please provide full details of the records kept per week for covid Ro numbers from 1st May to 1st November in England , Wales and Scotland

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

DHSC holds this information. However, as it is in the public domain, we will under section 21 of the FOIA (information accessible to the applicant by other means) refer you to the published sources.

The reproduction number (R) for UK and England are published on the GOV.UK website every Friday. The most recent estimate can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-number-in-the-uk>.

The Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) first published an agreed consensus estimate of R for England on 29th May (from the SPI-M-O consensus statement dated 27th May). Estimates of R for England from individual modelling groups were included in SPI-M-O consensus statements from 5th May (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sage-meetings-may-2020>). These estimates, however, are not agreed consensus estimates from SAGE.

We intend to publish a single document with time series for the UK, England, and NHS England regions in due course. In the meantime, R estimates for England over the period requested can be gathered from the published consensus statements. Links to the consensus statements for the requested time period can be found below:

29th May: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-m-o-consensus-statement-on-covid-19-27-may-2020>

5th June: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-m-o-consensus-statement-on-covid-19-3-june-2020>

12th June: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-m-o-consensus-statement-on-covid-19-10-june-2020>

19th June: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-m-o-consensus-statement-on-covid-19-17-june-2020>

26th June: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-m-o-consensus-statement-on-covid-19-24-june-2020>

3rd July: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-m-o-consensus-statement-on-covid-19-1-july-2020>

10th July: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-m-o-consensus-statement-on-covid-19-8-july-2020>

17th July: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-m-o-consensus-statement-on-covid-19-15-july-2020>

24th July: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-m-o-consensus-statement-on-covid-19-22-july-2020>

31st July: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-m-o-consensus-statement-on-covid-19-29-july-2020>

7th August: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-m-o-consensus-statement-on-covid-19-5-august-2020>

14th August: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-m-o-consensus-statement-on-covid-19-12-august-2020>

21st August: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-m-o-consensus-statement-on-covid-19-19-august-2020>

28th August: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-m-o-consensus-statement-on-covid-19-26-august-2020>

4th September: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-m-o-consensus-statement-on-covid-19-2-september-2020>

11th September: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-m-o-consensus-statement-on-covid-19-10-september-2020>

18th September: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-m-o-consensus-statement-on-covid-19-17-september-2020>

25th September: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-m-o-consensus-statement-on-covid-19-24-september-2020>

2nd October: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-m-o-consensus-statement-on-covid-19-1-october-2020>

9th October: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-m-o-consensus-statement-on-covid-19-8-october-2020>

16th October: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-m-o-consensus-statement-on-covid-19-15-october-2020>

23rd October: The papers informing the advice from SAGE are routinely released once any related policies are no longer in development. The SPI-M Consensus Statement from SAGE 63 will be released as part of the regular release of papers.

30th October: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-m-o-consensus-statement-on-covid-19-28-october-2020>

Please note the R estimates in the consensus statement for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are not the official estimates. Official estimates of R for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are published by the relevant devolved administrations, which are available here:

Scotland:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/?term=modelling&cat=filter&topics=Coronavirus%20in%20Scotland&publicationTypes=research-and-analysis&page=1>

Wales: <https://gov.wales/advice-coronavirus-technical-advisory-cell>

Northern Ireland: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/R-Number>

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to appeal by asking for an internal review. This should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter and sent to FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk, or to the address at the top of this letter.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communication.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already appealed our original response and received our internal review decision. You should raise your concerns with the ICO within three months of your last meaningful contact with us.

The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

<https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours sincerely,

Dorothy Crowe

Freedom of Information Officer

E: freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk