

Date: 13 December 2021
Our Ref: 2021-001072
Enquiries to: phs.foi@phs.scot

Dear Mary Eberhart

Freedom of Information Reference: 2021-001072

Thank you for your request for information of 25 November 2021.

“Can you provide all the underlying detailed data leading to the computation that you made into the Tables 18 and 19 of "COVID-19 statistical report, as at 13 September 2021" that are produced, before any aggregation?

In your answer:

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/801396/response/1910788/attach/4/PHS%20FOI%202021%20001009.pdf?cookie_passthrough=1

You are pointing to an Excel sheet and the report itself "COVID-19 statistical report, as at 13 September 2021". Tables 18 and 19 of the report make a breakdown by age and you make an analysis of natural deaths by taking the 2015-2019 death rates by age and sex. I quote: "In order to account for this, we have compared the total number of observed deaths per month to the number we would have expected, based on the average number of deaths that occurred per month (by age band and gender) for the same time-period between 2015 and 2019".

I conclude that you have the age and the sex of the deceased underlying the analysis of Tables 18 and 19.

If you cannot provide neither the exact number of days between vaccine and death nor the exact number of doses, at least, I would like to have, by date of death, the age and the sex of the persons having died within a set period of 28 days, which is the very detailed data that you utilised to create Tables 18 and 19 and to run the comparison to natural deaths.”

Response

Public Health Scotland does hold data relevant to your request; however, it would require significant bespoke analysis that is not possible within the time and resource limits for a Freedom of Information request. Therefore, the exemption Section 17(1) - Information not held is applied to all of your request, under the Freedom of Information Scotland Act (2002).

Additional Information

Bespoke complex analysis can be requested via the Information Request Service. Further information is available via [General enquiries form - General enquiries - Contact us - Public Health Scotland](#). Please ensure you state in your enquiry "Information Request - Bespoke data analysis required following response of FOI 2021-001072 FAO COVID-19 Data & Analytics Team".

Further information is available on the following page via [bespoke data analysis requests - Contact us - Public Health Scotland](#) including protocol and disclosure protocol. Please be aware that there may be a charge to cover the cost of completing this work. Further details can be found in the PHS [Information Request Service Charging Policy](#).

Scottish Information Commissioner's website:

For information I include a link to the Regulator's [website](#).

If you are unhappy with our response to your request you have the right to request a review. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this correspondence, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. The review will be undertaken by a reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process. The reviewer can be contacted as follows:

The FOI Reviewer
Public Health Scotland
Gyle Square
1 South Gyle Crescent
Edinburgh
EH12 9EB
Email: phs.foi@phs.scot

If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied, you have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

Yours sincerely

Scott Heald
Director of Digital & Driven Innovation
Public Health Scotland