

Our ref: Fol/202000071284

Simon Purvis

Email: request-681658-26a1f69b@whatdotheyknow.com

21 August 2020

Dear Mr Purvis,

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

Thank you for your request dated 5 August 2020 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Your request

You asked for:

- “1. Amount of Deaths per day for the date range 01/03/2020 to 31/07/2020
2. Amount of Deaths per day stamped/marked with COVID-19 as the cause of death
3. Amount of Deaths per day with a Death Certificate issued
4. Amount of Death Certificates issued per day with a cause of death stamped/marked as being COVID-19
5. As above but with the following information available for filtering purposes: Sex, Age, Race, Post Code of deceased to unit level”

Response to your request

Items 1 and 3 and similarly 2 and 4 are effectively the same as far as the data we hold is concerned because we only receive data on a death once a death certificate is issued. I have therefore focused on items 3, 4 and 5 only. Please note that the first mention of COVID-19 in a registered death certificate was the week beginning 16th March 2020.

3. This information is set out in the attached spreadsheet.

4. This information is available from our latest publication “Deaths involving coronavirus (COVID-19) in Scotland, Week 32” which can be downloaded via the following link: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/covid19stats>. You will find the figures you need in figure 8 of the “data and charts” spreadsheet <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/covid19/covid-deaths-data-week-32.xlsx>

5. The publication includes a breakdown by age and sex. Please refer to tables 1 and 2 via the link above. For a breakdown by ethnicity, please download the report via the attached link: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and->

[data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/vital-events/deaths/deaths-background-information/ethnicity-of-the-deceased-person#covid](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/statistics/covid19/covid-deaths-extra-tables-week-32.xlsx). Finally, we have not released any data at unit postcode level due to concerns about data confidentiality. However, we have produced a breakdown of COVID-19 deaths at a low level geography (intermediate zone). You will find this in table S8 of the “additional analysis” spreadsheet here <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/statistics/covid19/covid-deaths-extra-tables-week-32.xlsx>

Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we do not have to provide you with information if it is already reasonably accessible to you.

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,

JULIE RAMSAY
Statistician