

Date: 31 August 2021
Our Ref: 2021-000833
Enquiries to: phs.foi@phs.scot

Dear Claire Marcello

Freedom of Information Reference: 2021-000833

Thank you for your request for information of 12 August 2021.

“Please can you provide information on the breakdown by cause of death, for the deaths reported 28 days after vaccination, published on June 23rd 2021? Specifically, could you provide info for each age cohort on deaths recorded as COVID related.”

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 your request, under the Freedom of Information Scotland Act (2002).

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 2021-000833 FAO COVID-19 Data & Analytics Team”.

Further information is available on the following page, [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](#).

“Also, relating to table 17 of the following weekly COVID Statistic report (accessed at:) https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/8631/21-08-04-covid19-publication_report.pdf#page28 Please can you state how many of the deaths by age group listed as ‘Unvaccinated’ had not received a dose of vaccine (within 21 days prior to death or otherwise). It strikes me that a high percentage of deaths reported to be ‘unvaccinated’ have received the vaccine up to 28 days prior to death. This is very misleading to the public and I believe that the way data is presented should be reviewed, so that genuine ‘unvaccinated’ deaths- whereby no vaccine has been administered should be reported separately from those who have received a dose within prior 21 days of death- to accurately report on the situation for unvaccinated, and also to accurately assess impact of potential adverse effects of vaccination.”

Please note Public Health Scotland's definition of "Unvaccinated": An individual that has had no doses of COVID-19 vaccine and has tested positive for COVID-19 by PCR or has had one dose of COVID-19 vaccine and has tested positive less than or equal to 21 days after their 1st dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

The reason the 21-day calculation is utilised is due to it taking that long for the vaccination to have full effect.

Of the 3,052 deaths (all causes) that were reported in the unvaccinated category 2,485 of these (81.4%) had not received a dose of COVID-19 vaccine when they tested positive for COVID-19 by PCR and the remaining 567 (18.6%) had tested positive less than or equal to 21 days after their 1st dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

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 Data Driven Innovation
Public Health Scotland