



By email

request-782232-cb5bdbe3@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: 14/08/21/ld/1048

9 September 2021

Dear Peter K. Roberts,

Re: Freedom of Information request - Possible double counting of mortality numbers.

Thank you for your request received on 14 August 2021 addressed to Public Health England (PHE). In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), I can confirm that PHE does not hold the information you have specified.

Request

Please could you tell me whether those England and Wales citizens who have been deemed to have died linked to Coronavirus, currently amounting to some 130,000, are also recorded as having died due to another cause, possibly the principal cause, of death, such as a road traffic accident or heart attack.

Response

In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the FOI Act, PHE can confirm it does not hold the information you have requested. PHE does not collect data on the causes of death for people who died with COVID-19.

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act, public authorities have a duty to provide advice and assistance. Accordingly, the following link contains an explanation of the data PHE publishes in relation to deaths in people with COVID-19:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-reported-sars-cov-2-deaths-in-england/covid-19-confirmed-deaths-in-england-to-31-december-2020-report>

Additionally, you may wish to contact the Office of National Statistics (ONS), which holds responsibility for the registration of death certificates in England. The ONS FOI team can be contacted at foi.team@ons.gov.uk.

ONS datasets related to deaths can be found online here:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths>

If you have any queries regarding the information that has been supplied to you, please refer your query to me in writing in the first instance. If you remain dissatisfied

and would like to request an internal review, then please contact us at the address above or by emailing foi@phe.gov.uk.

Please note that you have the right to an independent review by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) if a complaint cannot be resolved through the PHE complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted by calling the ICO's helpline on 0303 123 1113, visiting the ICO's website at www.ico.org.uk or writing to the ICO at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely
FOI Team