

Our ref: Fol/202000091955

J Grove

Email: request-694627-1cf8dd25@whatdotheyknow.com

23 October 2020

Dear Mr Grove,

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

Thank you for your request of 27 September 2020 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Your request

You asked for:

“What is the recorded date (on NRS systems) when the decision was made to report monthly mortality statistics for “deaths associated with COVID-19” rather than weekly statistics?”

Response to your request

The answer to your question is that National Records of Scotland (NRS) continues to report a weekly figure on deaths involving COVID-19. These data can be found in the SG ‘4 Harms’ website alongside other relevant information here:

<https://data.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/detail.html>

NRS also continues to publish a detailed analysis of COVID-19 related deaths on a monthly basis – this product also provides the weekly data.

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

In accordance with the Official Statistics Code of Practice, decisions on frequency of publication are made by the Head of Profession (Statistics). National Records of Scotland consulted with users of the weekly publication, including Scottish Government. NRS concluded that due to the thankfully low number of weekly deaths, user needs would be well met through the update to the SG website and the NRS monthly publication. The last weekly NRS publication was released on 12 August 2020.

NRS will consider re-introducing a weekly publication on their website should there be any significant changes in the spread or impact of COVID-19.

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,

Alan Ferrier
Head of Demographic Statistics