



Department of

**Finance**

An Roinn

**Airgeadais**

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**Date:** 19 April 2024

**Ref:** DOF/2024-0169

Dear Kathy,

**Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I refer to your request for information under the terms of the above Act, dated 05 April 2024.

Our response is attached.

You have the right to request a formal review by the Department within two calendar months of the date of this letter and if you wish to do so, please write to [foi@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:foi@finance-ni.gov.uk) or FOI/EIR Team, Department of Finance, 2nd Floor, Craigantlet Buildings, Stoney Road, Belfast BT4 3SX.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me at [foi@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:foi@finance-ni.gov.uk). Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Paul McKillen  
NISRA Director

**FOI DoF/2024-0169****Request**

(This is a follow up to FOI DoF/2024-0144)

Under the FOI Act (2000), with respect to FOI DOF/2024-0144, please provide a full breakdown for Table 2 (below) by the other conditions mentioned on the death certificate by age group. For example, provide the number of death certificates per age group mentioning dementia, diabetes, neurological conditions, kidney disorders, respiratory disorders, cancer, pneumonia, thrombosis and thrombocytopenia, as per the ICD-10 code.

**Table 2**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Deaths due to Covid-19, with at least 1 other condition mentioned</b>
0-14	1
15-44	56
45-64	493
65-74	836
75-84	1812
85+	2201

**Response**

I can confirm that the department holds some of the information requested.

Registrations up to the end of 2023 have been coded by ICD-10 code and grouped as per our quarterly outputs. The table reflect the causes listed for the 5,262 cases where covid-19 was mentioned on the death certificate with at least one other condition. This, of course, does not match the data provided previously as it does not include registrations made in 2024. Note that the list of causes recorded on a death certificate can be multiple, so one case can have a number of contributory causes of death. The numbers below therefore should not be summed as the causes are not mutually exclusive. Additionally, the data shows causes appearing on **Covid-related** deaths which means Covid-19 will not necessarily have been the underlying cause of death, it may have been a contributory cause appearing alongside other causes. Note data for 2023 is provisional until finalised through the publication of the Annual Report of the Registrar General 2023 as per our publication schedule.

More information on the processes the deaths registration data goes through (including coding the text cause of death information) before outputs are produced is available from our [Background Quality Report](#) and the [Quality Assurance of Administrative Data](#) report.

Covid-related deaths occurring up to end of December 2023 by causes listed on the death certificate

ICD10 Code	Cause of Death	0-14	15-44	45-64	65-74	75-84	85+
A00-B99	Certain Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	0	1	26	44	91	133
C00-D48	Neoplasms	0	7	100	208	356	285
C00-C97	<i>Malignant Neoplasms</i>	0	6	96	197	347	266
D50-D89	All Diseases of the Blood and Blood Forming Organs and Certain Disorders Involving the Immune Mechanism	0	3	14	26	52	38
E00-E90	Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases	0	22	164	242	458	446
F00-F99	Mental and Behavioural Disorders	0	3	47	93	358	579
G00-H95	Diseases of the Nervous System and the Sense Organs	0	10	66	111	281	348
I00-I99	Disease of the Circulatory System	0	19	236	444	1030	1280
I20-I25	<i>Ischaemic Heart Disease</i>	0	2	57	162	358	415
I60-I69	<i>Cerebrovascular Disease</i>	0	0	33	61	184	203
J00-J99	Diseases of the Respiratory System	0	31	339	644	1349	1448
J09-J11	<i>Influenza</i>	0	0	1	0	3	2
J12-J18	<i>Pneumonia</i>	0	25	286	545	1081	1168
K00-K93	Diseases of the Digestive System	0	11	80	85	130	124
L00-M99	All Diseases of Skin, Musculoskeletal System and Connective Tissue	0	4	44	69	123	92
N00-N99	Diseases of the Genitourinary System	0	5	50	150	376	572
O00-O99	Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium	0	1	0	0	0	0
P00-P96	Certain Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q00-Q99	Congenital Malformations, Deformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities	0	6	19	5	2	4

ICD10 Code	Cause of Death	0-14	15-44	45-64	65-74	75-84	85+
R00-R99	Signs, Symptoms and Abnormal Clinical and Laboratory Findings, N.E.C.	0	15	102	147	297	577
V01-Y98	All External Causes of Morbidity and Mortality	0	8	29	45	85	99

Please note: The causes in this table can either be contributory causes of death or the underlying cause of death. In each case a relevant Covid-19 code appeared alongside the cause as either a contributory or underlying cause of death. An individual can appear in totals relating to more than one cause.

Exemption Section 22 Section 22(1) (information intended for future publication) applies to registrations made in 2024, as the cause of death text has not yet fully been coded into ICD-10 and will be due for publication in the quarter 1 tables as per our publication schedule. (<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/vital-statistics-documentation>).

By applying Section 22(1) Exemption of the FOI Act, we are required to carry out a Public Interest Test, which can be found attached at Annex B.

**PUBLIC INTEREST TEST**

**Annex B**

Request Ref: 

DoF/2024-0169
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Request Summary: Breakdown of covid-related deaths by the other conditions mentioned on the death certificate and age group

Information Details:	Exemption/Exception Applied	Reasons for Disclosure	Reasons for Non-Disclosure
ICD-10 breakdown on the causes mentioned on covid-related deaths registered between January 2024 and 15 March 2024.	S22- Information Intended for future publication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To show compliance with the FOI Act by disclosing information held by the Department as a Public Authority;</li> <li>There is a general public interest in the accountability, openness and transparency of government, and to promote public understanding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ICD-10 data on causes of deaths registered up to 15 March 2024 is not yet available but will become available with the publication of the Quarterly Tables of Registrar General for quarter 1 2024, as per the NISRA Vital Statistics Unit 2024/25 publication schedule <a href="https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/vital-statistics-documentation">https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/vital-statistics-documentation</a>. An ICD-10 breakdown of covid-related deaths where more than one cause was listed will be available to request after the data has finished being coded and published through the quarterly tables.</li> <li>NISRA carries out standard internal quality assurance checks on this data which may result in the information requested being subject to ongoing change in the run-up to publication. It is in the public interest that the quality assurance process is concluded before making this information available to the public to ensure accuracy and consistency of messaging and thereby confidence in what we report.</li> <li>As the information requested is of notable interest to the wider public, it is important that it can be accessed by all interested parties at the same time in an accurate form. This is in line with the Official Statistics Code of Practice which states: ‘Statistics and data should be equally available to all, not given to some people before others. They should be published at a sufficient level of detail and remain publicly available.’</li> </ul>

**PUBLIC INTEREST DECISION:** After weighing up the competing public interest considerations, we consider it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information held should be withheld from disclosure until the future date of publication (section 22[1]) and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Signed: Deborah Lyness

Date: 17 April 2024