



Department of

Finance

An Roinn

Airgeadais

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Date: 28 March 2024

Ref: DOF/2024-0144

Dear Kathy

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I refer to your request for information under the terms of the above legislation, dated 19 March 2024.

Your response is attached at Annex A.

You have the right to request a formal review by the department within two calendar months of the date of this letter. If you wish to do so, please email foi@finance-ni.gov.uk or write to 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's Office (ICO). Visit the ICO complaints portal at ico.org.uk/foicomplaints to find out more, or write to The Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, to request an independent review of the department's decision.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me at 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/2024-0144

Request

(This is a follow up to FOI DoF/2023-0348)

Please could you answer all the same questions in the same format as previously asked in the FOI attached.

1. The total amount of covid deaths?
 2. The total amount of covid deaths with at least one other condition mentioned on the death certificate?
 3. The total amount of covid deaths with only covid mentioned on the death certificate?
- All three questions to be answered in total amounts and then broken down by age groups please.

DoF response

I can confirm that the Department holds the information requested.

Of the **5,674** Covid-19 related deaths that had occurred up to 15 March 2024 (accounting for registrations up to and including 20 March 2024), **275** had Covid-19 as the **only** cause of death mentioned on the death certificate. The remaining **5,399** covid-19 related deaths had at least one other cause of death mentioned on the death certificate.

The tables below provide the information requested.

Age	1. Total Covid-19 related deaths
0-14	1
15-44	64
45-64	525
65-74	869
75-84	1889
85+	2326

Age	2. Deaths due to Covid-19, with at least 1 other condition mentioned
0-14	1
15-44	56
45-64	493
65-74	836
75-84	1812
85+	2201

Age	3. Deaths due to Covid-19, with covid alone mentioned
0-14	0
15-44	8
45-64	32
65-74	33
75-84	77
85+	125

To select Covid-related deaths, NISRA used final data for up to and including 2022 which has been cause of death coded using the ICD-10 framework, provisional data where cause of death has been coded for 2023, and provisional data for 2024 that has not yet been coded. For coded data, deaths were determined to be covid-related where at least one of the following codes was present in the list of causes: U07.1, U07.2, U09.9, U10.9. For the uncoded 2024 data, covid-related deaths were identified using a key word search of the cause of death text fields.

To select relevant cases for Covid-only deaths (those without other causes of death recorded), NISRA included deaths which mentioned only Covid-19, with or without pneumonia, in Part 1 of the death certificate. Pneumonia was included, as early discussions with the Department of Health indicated that certifying doctors may have made no distinction between Covid-19 and Covid-19 pneumonia. Also *excluded* are deaths where Covid-19 led to another condition, which in turn led to death. For coded data this meant that underlying cause of death had to be one of U07.1, U07.2 or U10.9 but a code relating to pneumonia (J12-J18) could also be listed.

Note that totals may change from previously supplied data where data has moved from being based on a word search to mentions of specific ICD-10 codes, and where data has moved from being provisional (and subject to change), to being final following extensive validations.