

Date 9 March 2021
Our Ref 2021-000426
Enquiries to phs.foi@phs.scot

Dear Mr I Page,

Freedom of Information Reference: 2021-000426

Thank you for your information request of 20th February 2021.

“Could you please provide the total number of deaths for any reason within 28 days of having a covid vaccine from the start of the vaccination roll out to date.”

I confirm that Public Health Scotland holds the information you have requested and that this can be provided to you.

Using the latest mortality data available (up to 26th February), 2,207 people have died within 28 days of vaccination (number of days between vaccine and death is 0-27 where 0 is the day of vaccination). Please note that these deaths are due to any cause.

PHS is not currently aware of any deaths in Scotland that are considered conclusively linked to vaccination.

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is the UK's regulator of medicines, medical devices and blood components for transfusion, responsible for ensuring their safety, quality and effectiveness. Part of the MHRA's continuous analysis includes an evaluation of natural death rates over time, to determine if any specific trends or patterns are occurring that might indicate a vaccine safety concern. To date (period 9 December 2020 to 21 February 2021), the MHRA has received 212 UK reports of suspected adverse reactions to the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine in which the patient died shortly after vaccination, 244 reports for the Oxford University/AstraZeneca vaccine and 4 where the brand of vaccine was unspecified. Review of individual reports and patterns of reporting does not suggest the vaccines played a role in the deaths. For more information on deaths following vaccination, please refer to the MHRA weekly adverse events report (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-adverse-reactions/coronavirus-vaccine-summary-of-yellow-card-reporting>, see under 'Events with a fatal outcome' section).

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:

5 Cadogan Street, Glasgow G2 6QE

Edinburgh office: 1 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9EB

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,

Carol Sinclair
Associate Director (Data Driven Innovation)
Public Health Scotland