ANNEX A

FOI DOF/2026-0246

Request

You requested the following information on 12 May 2026.

I would like to submit the following requests for information surrounding the cause of deaths in Northern Ireland:

1. Deaths where the primary cause is assigned the ICD code range V00-X59, Y85 and Y86, broken down by three-digit ICD. This would be for deaths in 2023 and 2024.
2. Deaths where the primary cause is assigned the ICD code range V00-X59, Y85 and Y86, broken down by three-digit ICD codes, and would involve separate tables for men and women. This would be for deaths in 2023 and 2024.
3. Deaths where the primary cause is assigned the ICD code range V00-X59, Y85 and Y86, broken down by three-digit ICD codes, for each of the following deprivation levels (IMD): 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10, not stated. This would be for deaths in 2023 and 2024.

DoF response

I can confirm the Department holds this information.

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) produces statistics based on the cause of death information recorded on death certificates and collected by the General Register Office (GRO) during the death registration process.

NISRA holds the information for all parts of the request. However, due to the small cell sizes generated and the associated potential for identification of individuals from details related to specific deaths through combining data across the parts of the request (including data provided under FOI DOF/2025-0718), the data has been provided at Northern Ireland level only.

A breakdown of the requested information by Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure decile is subject to FOI Exemption Section 44(1)(a) (disclosure prohibited by other legislation). Section 44 is an absolute exemption and therefore the department does not have to conduct a Public Interest Test.

Section 13(1) of the Statistics and Registration Services Act 2007 states that ‘the person producing any official statistics which are designated under section 12 as National Statistics must ensure that the Code of Practice for Statistics continues

to be complied with in relation to the statistics.' Section 13(2) further states that 'Failure to comply with subsection (1) in relation to any statistics means that the designation of the statistics as National Statistics may not be confirmed under section 14.' Provision of the requested data disaggregated by Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure decile would be a failure to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics in respect of part T4.5 which states 'Protect the confidentiality of individual and business information when producing statistics. Be transparent about the choices made in line with the producer's published confidentiality policy and apply appropriate disclosure control methods before release'.

Data can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet, with specific tables for each element of the request detailed below:

1. Data for this part of the request is available in Tables 1.1 and 1.2, corresponding to the years 2023 and 2024.

2. Data for this part of the request is available in Tables 1.3 and 1.4, corresponding to the years 2023 and 2024.

3. Data for this part of the request is subject to FOI Exemption Section 44(1)(a), as detailed above.

Annex B - Internal Reviews

An Internal Review request examines the response based on applied exemptions, search adequacy, or response timeliness.

It is not the following, which will be treated as specified:

- Questions asking for clarification on information provided: Will be treated as part of the original FOI request.
- Additional questions about the information in the response: Will be treated as a new FOI request.
- Questions about the subject not related to the original request: Will be treated as new FOI request.
- Questions regarding how a service operates or why a decision was made: Will be treated as normal business and responded to accordingly.
- Complaints or concerns raised in response to information provided: Will be treated in line with relevant complaints procedure.

To make an Internal Review request:

- **Clearly state**: That you want an internal review of a previous FOI response and provide the necessary details.
- **Follow the timeline:** Be sure to submit your request within 40 working days of receiving the original response. If the Department has not responded at all, you have 40 working days after the original 20-day response period has passed.
- **Wait for a response:** The review is typically completed within 20 working days but can take up to 40 working days in exceptional circumstances. The Department should inform you of any delays.

What the review includes

- A fresh decision based on a reconsideration of all relevant factors.
- An assessment of whether the request was handled correctly and if exemptions were applied appropriately.
- The review will be conducted by someone who was not involved in the original decision.

If you wish to request an internal review, 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.