

FOI DoF/2021-0129

1. Kindly provide a monthly breakdown of the number of deaths at home during 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021, i.e. how many in January, February, March, etc. for each year.
2. If there was an increase in deaths at home during 2020 and 2021, were those increases 'statistically significant'?
3. If there was an increase in deaths at home during 2020 and 2021, and if those increases were 'statistically significant', to what statistical degree were they significant?

Response

I can confirm that the Department holds information relevant to your request, however some information is covered by an exemption under the FOI act, further details are provided below.

1. The table below provides the number of deaths at home in each of the years 2017 to 2020 broken down by month. Data for 2020 are provisional and subject to change.

Number of registered deaths at home, 2017 to 2020

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020
January	448	505	443	429
February	380	362	355	348
March	406	404	359	386
April	318	348	351	604
May	363	294	397	506
June	376	335	339	504
July	350	310	332	472
August	317	342	339	408
September	343	343	341	492
October	361	402	390	505
November	434	357	381	524
December	365	296	341	535

FOI Exemption 44(1)(a) (**Disclosure is prohibited by other legislation**) applies to information held for the period January to March 2021. The National Statistic to which this information relates has not yet been published but is scheduled for release in June 2021, as per the NISRA Vital Statistics [publication schedule](#).

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 under

section 10 continues to be complied with in relation to the statistics. Section 13 (2) 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 (but no action shall lie in relation to any such failure).'

Provision of the data for the period January to March 2021 before its publication in March 2021 would be a failure to comply with the Code in respect of parts T3.3 and T3.4 <https://code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Code-of-Practice-for-Statistics.pdf>.

While the release in June will not contain the specific data sought, an ad hoc query can be run, once the base data for this time period is in the public domain.

2. Data for 2021 are not available, as per the above, therefore comparison is not possible. However, these data are derived from a whole population administrative process rather than a sample survey so any change is a real change. The concept of statistical significance does not apply.
3. As 2 above.