

**Request**

I am a UK citizen and would like to make an FOI request for number of drug-related deaths 2021 and 2022.

**Response**

I can confirm that the Department holds the information requested.

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) collates data on registrations of death.

NISRA produces statistics based on the cause of death information recorded on death certificates and collected by the General Register Office during the registration process. For this request FOI Exemption Section 21 (Information is accessible by other means) applies to the number of deaths where the cause of death was drug-related as it is already in the public domain.

Provisional data on drug-related deaths up to 30 June 2022 (the most up to date data currently available) are available in table 1c of the Quarterly Registrar General tables at the following link:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/registrar-general-quarterly-report/registrar-general-quarterly-tables>

By way of further assistance, final data on drug-related deaths registered in 2021 are planned for publication in the coming weeks and will be available at the following link:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/cause-death/drug-related-deaths>