



Access to Public Information Request

Date of receipt: 3 April 2020

Date of response: 17 May 2020

Access to Public Information request: Covid-19 Death Rates

Request for information:

What was the death rate last year?

Please provide the individual breakdown of the main causes of death, including the seasonal flu?

Since the start of the coronavirus-covid-19 disease:

What has been the death rate for it so far and in how many cases was there an underlying medical condition, or an existing health or mental problem?

What has been the general death rate so far, and please provide a breakdown of the main causes of death, including seasonal flu.

Response:

Before health and care data can be used for statistical analysis and comparison, a number of processes need to take place to ensure that the data held is accurate and has been consistently recorded. This means that there is an inherent lag before reports can be produced. In addition, in a jurisdiction the size of Guernsey, data can naturally vary between individual years and therefore rather than report on single years, rolling three year trends are adopted for statistical purposes. Collectively, this means that it is not readily possible to provide information in respect of 2019 death rates or a breakdown of cause of death. It is considered that it would be impracticable to expedite work to enable reporting on 2019 figures and to do so would be an unreasonable diversion of health intelligence resources at this time given the extensive limitations of a single year of data. This information is therefore subject to exception 2.10 (Prematurity of Publication).

Details in respect of the number of deaths attributed to Covid-19 in the Bailiwick are available online at <https://covid19.gov.gg/test-results>. This details that there has been 13 confirmed COVID-19 deaths and three further presumptive deaths.

The Committee *for* Health & Social Care will not publish details in relation to underlying medical conditions. The Committee has a clear legal and ethical duty to maintain the confidentiality of islanders. This information is subject to exceptions 2.12 (Privacy of an Individual) which specifically included deceased persons.

For the same reasons as set out above for 2019, it is not possible to comment on broader death rates since the start of COVID-19. Exception 2.10 therefore also applies.

Notwithstanding this, work has been undertaken to review the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on death registration counts in Guernsey up to week 16 of 2020. This report is in the public domain and can be found here:

<https://www.gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=124635&p=0>.