



## Access to Public Information Request

**Date of receipt:** 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Date of response:** 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020

### Access to Public Information request: Covid-19

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#### **Request for information:**

What was the state of health of the 252 cases with positive covid-19 test results?

How many were in different categories such as no symptoms, mild symptoms and serious symptoms?

Of the 13 covid-19 related deaths, how many were solely to do with the virus and there were no other underlying health conditions? Of the 13 deaths, what were the age and sex groupings? Of the deaths, what were the underlying causes/factors which contributed to their deaths? How many were care home residents and how many were cared for in their homes? On what dates did the deaths take place?

When will an assessment take place as to whether the medical advice and measures Guernsey took to become covid-19 free were sufficient on their own to become covid-19 free, and whether having non evidence based economic, social and political lockdown restrictions imposed on the population were unnecessary ?

#### **Response (provided by the Committee *for* Health & Social Care):**

In respect of the 252 cases with positive COVID-19 test results, 104 cases (41%) had an underlying condition / comorbidity, 120 (48%) cases did not, with the underlying health status of 28 cases (or 11%) unknown.

In respect of symptom severity, almost all cases had at least mild symptoms, as the presence of symptoms was generally the trigger for testing. This means that there is limited data on the number of asymptomatic cases which may have been present in the community while the virus was being actively transmitted. There were 13 confirmed deaths of COVID-19 and a further 3 people died from suspected COVID-19. Between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> May

there were 34 hospital admissions where the patient had tested positive for COVID-19. These admissions related to 28 individuals as six people were admitted twice. None of those admitted to hospital required intensive care treatment.

Of the 13 reported COVID-19 deaths which all occurred between 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020, 5 were male and 8 female. All were over 80, with 6 deaths between 80-89 and 7 deaths over 90. 10 deaths occurred in residential / nursing homes or extra care housing with 3 occurring in hospital. At this stage, it is not possible to provide any further information on any underlying conditions or secondary causes of death as the clinical data has not been coded so to allow analysis.

The Committee kept all restrictions which were introduced under careful review, both in respect of their effect locally and in other jurisdictions, and will fully engage with any scrutiny process. The Scrutiny Management Committee is convening a hearing for July 2020 to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on islanders.

There is international evidence as to the efficacy of Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions at reducing the reproduction number,  $R_0$  (the average number of new infections resulting from each positive case) for other viruses. Early evidence from China's initial outbreak containment strategies, which were based on non-pharmaceutical interventions, indicated their success in respect of the management of COVID-19. While further quantitative research is needed to understand the efficacy of NPIs and their timings, international experience broadly shows that combining NPIs has the strongest and most rapid effect.