

**Subject:** Request for suicide statistics for Scotland in 2020 and 2019.

**FOI reference:** 202100145502

**Date received:** 26 January 2021

**Date responded:** 1 February 2021

**Information requested:**

1) "Please can you provide a breakdown of month by month figures for suicide deaths in Scotland for 2020."

2)"Please also provide the same for 2019 for comparison."

**NRS Response:**

1) While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance we are unable to provide the information requested for 2020 because an exemption under section 17 (information not held) of FOISA applies to that information. The reasons why this exemption applies are explained in the Annex to this letter.

This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that National Records of Scotland does not have the information you have requested.

2) In terms of the 2019 figures, please find the attached table outlining probable suicides by month.

## **Annex - Reasons for not providing information**

### An exemption applies

An exemption under section 17(1) (information not held) of FOISA applies to the data requested for 2020.

Suicide statistics for 2020 will not be published until June 2021. We rely on information from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) following their investigations into deaths from unknown causes. This can take a number of months to come through. We therefore do not yet have the information required to answer the request.

This exemption is not subject to the 'public interest test', so we are not required to consider if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption.