

Vital Events – General Background Information – Births and Deaths: Days until Registration

Arrangements which apply for 2017 onwards: avoiding double-counting births which are re-registered

Prior to the introduction of National Records of Scotland (NRS)'s current Vital Events statistical computer system during 2016, NRS's birth statistics database should have held only the information that was recorded when the birth was first registered. It should not have taken any account of any changes that were made if a birth was re-registered, for example to add the father's details. However, it appears that the correct procedure was not always followed, with the result that the database wrongly includes a few records of the re-registrations of births – refer to the document on [excluding cases](#).

For data obtained following the introduction of the current Vital Events statistical computer system, when a birth is re-registered, what the statistical computer system does with the records of the original registration of the birth and of the re-registration of the birth depends upon whether the birth was re-registered in the same calendar year as it was first registered.

In cases where a birth was re-registered in the same calendar year as it was first registered, NRS's birth statistics database holds only the information that was provided when the birth was re-registered: the record of the re-registration of the birth completely replaces the original registration record in the statistical database (NRS's administrative computer system continues to hold the original registration record as well as the re-registration record). In such cases, the date that the statistical database's record holds as the 'date of registration' is, in fact, the date on which the birth was re-registered, and the result of calculating the number of days between the date of birth and what is held as the date of registration could be much larger than the actual number of days between the date of birth and the date on which the birth was first registered. Therefore, such cases have been excluded completely from the data that were used to produce the statistics.

In cases where a birth was re-registered in a subsequent calendar year, the record of the re-registration is not added to NRS's statistical database, which will hold only a record for the original registration of the birth. Therefore, it is the original registration (not the re-registration) that is included in the data that were used to produce the statistics.