



**Scottish  
Ambulance  
Service**

University National NHS Board



# Freedom of Information Request

**5<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

## Question

I would now like to ask for the following:

1. The number of instances recorded as PLE in the financial year 2023/34 and the number of instances of ROLE in the financial year 2023/24.
2. The number of instances recorded as PLE in the calendar year 2024 so far and the number of instances of ROLE in the calendar year 2024 so far.

Clarification: I note that you said in the previous response that “The terms PLE and ROLE are in the process of being phased out to be replaced by COD – Confirmation Of Death”. Please state when COD will start to be used. Also if it is now already in use (and PLE and ROLE have been phased out) then please reflect that in requests 1 and 2 by expressing instances of COD instead.

## Answer

Please see the tables below detailing the number of ROLE's and the number of PLE's reported in 2023 until 2024 to date.

Scottish Ambulance Service crews report ROLE and PLE when attending incidents where a death has occurred. This can be anything from accidental death to unexplained deaths; the crews are often called to confirm death. There has been a change in terminology within the Scottish Ambulance Service to Confirmation of Death; this is in the process of a phased-rollout. In terms of reporting we are using the former two terms ROLE and PLE, there is no current date set for the change in reporting.

### **Important to note when interpreting this data:**

The sections on the ePRF where the crews would note PLE or ROLE are not exclusive, there are instances where the crew have filled out both sections as indicated in the third column; the third column's figures are incorporated into the first two column's figures. The data in the columns should NOT be added together as this will not be a true representation of the number of deaths attended.



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Calendar Year (so far):

Calendar Year	Number Incidents Attended Where PLE Y/N = Y	Number Incidents Attended Where ROLE Y/N = Y	Number of Incidents Attended Where PLE Y/N AND ROLE Y/N =Y
2023	6,090	6,088	3,419
2024	2,279	2,598	1,267

Financial Year (so far):

Financial Year	Number Incidents Attended Where PLE Y/N = Y	Number Incidents Attended Where ROLE Y/N = Y	Number of Incidents Attended Where PLE Y/N AND ROLE Y/N =Y
2023 - 2024	5,912	6,205	3,323
2024 - 2025	730	814	386

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