



**Scottish  
Ambulance  
Service**

University National NHS Board



# Freedom of Information Request

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

## Question

FOI requested- All recorded drug-related deaths between ages 16-21.

Can it please be

- Total number of overdoses resulting in death and number of substances affecting, including alcohol, resulting in death, ages 16-21 reported.

and additionally,

- Total number of reported cases where overdose and number of substances affecting, including alcohol, not resulting in death, ages 16-21 were reported.

## Answer

Having conducted a search of our data, the Scottish Ambulance Service do not hold specific data on drug deaths.

The Scottish Ambulance Service has applied section 17 to your request. This exemption applies if the organisation does not hold the information and would be required to create new information to answer a request. To be specific, the Scottish Ambulance Service attends deaths, however, we do not record a cause of death.

It may be useful to note that as part of this application of this exemption, I have considered the following guidance issued by the Scottish Information Commissioner:

Public authorities are not required to create information in order to answer a request. There's a distinction between creating new information, and compiling information. Where a request can be answered by compiling information from readily available resources held by the public authority, this is not the same as creating new information. However, if collation of the information would require skill and complex judgement, the information is not held.

Information on deaths in Scotland can be found in the National Records of Scotland, they have specific reports on drug related deaths in Scotland [Drug Related Deaths in Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#)