



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Information Governance and Management
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

foi.officer@parliament.scot

19 December 2022

Dear Requester,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: 2022-681958

We acknowledge your request for information seeking:

How many times has covid vaccine harmed or injury or deaths been discussed in parliament?

Following receipt of your request we wrote to you on 1 December 2022 for clarification of your request. In our letter we sought clarification as to whether you were referring to discussions about harm/injury/death occurring as a result of the Covid Vaccine. You responded on 3 December 2022 as follows:

What are the official figures of harm, injury or death resulting specifically from a covid vaccine which have been discussed and recorded in the Official Report on the Scottish Parliament and public meetings of the parliament and its committees?

What was the steps to investigate and make the public aware of the harms, injuries and deaths?

Your request which was received on 22 November 2022 and clarified on 3 December 2022 has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

A written record of what is said in public meetings of the Scottish Parliament and its committees can be found in the [Official report](#) on the Scottish Parliament website. Further information on [motions and votes](#) submitted to Parliament and [questions](#) asked by MSPs can also be found on the Parliament website.

Responding to each part of your request in turn, the position is as follows:

What are the official figures of harm, injury or death resulting specifically from a covid vaccine which have been discussed and recorded in the Official Report on the Scottish Parliament and public meetings of the parliament and its committees?

The Scottish Parliament does not produce or hold official figures in relation to covid vaccines. The only circumstances in which we would hold such information is if it was shared with us by the Scottish Government.

Whilst we have not identified any discussion of official figures there has been discussion of the Scottish Government's publication of data and the incidence of harm, injury or death resulting specifically from covid vaccination in meetings of the COVID-19 Recovery Committee.

The subject of harm, injury and death caused by the vaccine was discussed at the [meeting of the COVID-19 Recovery Committee](#) on 30 June 2022. The meeting was part of the Committee's inquiry on the communication of public health information. At the meeting Brian Whittle MSP raised the issue of vaccine-induced immune thrombocytopenia and thrombosis on behalf of a constituent nurse and advised that "Her absolute belief is that vaccination was absolutely the way to go. However, I was surprised to hear that there are about 220 confirmed cases, 78 fatalities, 69 probable cases and 70 possible cases. She says that these are relatively very small numbers compared to the vaccine". He asked the Scottish Government on her behalf "did we communicate the very small risk that there was with the vaccine..."

The Scottish Government's response is then recorded in the Official Report. In short, the Minister for Public Health, Women's Health and Sport explains that "...communicating messages that would reassure those individuals in relation to an individual assessment of whether someone is at particular risk from this vaccine is difficult. We could not communicate that at population level; that had to involve an individual discussion between clinician and patient at the time of vaccination."

John Mason MSP also questioned the Scottish Government asking, "Can you give us any figures for how many people have a serious reaction to the vaccines or experience side effects?" The Scottish Government explained that the figures are published on the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's website.

You can access information about reactions to covid vaccinations on the website for the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency which can be accessed [here](#).

What was the steps to investigate and make the public aware of the harms, injuries and deaths?

The information you have requested in this part of the request is held by the Scottish Parliament in its capacity to examine what the Scottish Government is doing and debate current issues. For information about action taken by the Scottish Government to investigate and make the public aware of this issue you will need to contact the Scottish Government.

As noted in the response above, the Scottish Government has provided some information to the COVID-19 Recovery Committee at its meeting on 30 June 2022 on how it considers the risk of harm, injury and death should be communicated to the public. The COVID-19 Recovery Committee's evidence sessions with the Scottish Government are held in public and a video recording and substantially verbatim written transcript of the evidence received, known as the Official Report, is available to view on the Scottish Parliament's website.

In addition, MSPs have submitted questions to the Scottish Government in relation to the effects of the covid vaccine. The Scottish Parliament records these questions, and this information can be found in the questions and answers section of the Parliament website. To assist you with this part of your request we have provided some illustrative examples of questions from MSPs in relation to the effects of the covid vaccine:

[Written question and answer: S6W-10341 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

[Written question and answer: S6W-08270 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

[Written question and answer: S6W-05777 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

[Written question and answer: S6W-02691 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

[Written question and answer: S6W-00949 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

In line with the technical requirements of FOI(S)A we have provided a notice advising that the information you have requested is not held by the Scottish Parliament.

The supply of information under FOI does not constitute permission for its use in a way that would infringe copyright.

<https://www.parliament.scot/about/copyright>

We would welcome feedback or comment on how we handled your request. Please feel free to contact the Head of Information Governance by e-mail at foi.officer@parliament.scot

We are currently working remotely and so would ask you to contact us by email at foi.officer@parliament.scot

Please find below Annex A, which explains how we handle FOI requests and reviews.

Yours sincerely,

Cara Dickson
Information Compliance Officer

**REQUESTS MADE UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**

How we handle FOI requests

Information on how we handle FOI requests is available on the Parliament's website at:

[Privacy notice: Information rights: Freedom of Information request handling | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

Alternatively, please contact the Public Information & Resources Team to request a copy.

<https://www.parliament.scot/contact-us>

Review

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which we have dealt with your request for information you can ask us to review our decision and actions. You must do this in writing (or other permanent form) within 40 working days of the date of this letter stating the reasons for your dissatisfaction and we will respond within 20 working days of receipt. A request for a review should be made to the Head of Information Governance.

Post: Head of Information Governance
 The Scottish Parliament
 Edinburgh
 EH99 1SP

Telephone: 0131 348 5281

We welcome calls using the Text Relay service or in British Sign Language through [contactSCOTLAND-BSL](#).

E-mail: foi.officer@parliament.scot

Application to the Scottish Information Commissioner

If on the outcome of any review you are still dissatisfied or if we are unable to resolve any other complaint then you can contact the Scottish Information Commissioner:

Post: The Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner
 Kinburn Castle
 Doubledykes Road
 St Andrews

Fife
KY16 9DS

Email: www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal

Telephone: 01334 464610

Fax: 01334 464611

Website: www.itspublicknowledge.info

A decision by the Scottish Information Commissioner may be appealed on a point of law to the Court of Session.

Copyright in relation to information provided

The supply of information under FOI does not constitute permission for its use in a way that would infringe copyright. You should obtain permission from the copyholder before any such use.

Feedback or comment

We would welcome feedback or comment on how we handled your request. Please contact the Head of Information Governance.

Data Protection

If you wish to find out more about how we use your personal data then you can access our Privacy Notice at the following link:

[Privacy notice: Information rights: Freedom of Information request handling | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

Complaints

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which we dealt with your enquiry, then you may wish to raise the matter with Public Information and Resources.

How to contact us

Post: The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Telephone: 0131 348 5000
0800 092 7500 (Public Enquiries)
0131 348 5395 (Gàidhlig)

We also welcome calls using the Text Relay service or in British Sign Language through [contactSCOTLAND-BSL](#).

E-mail: info@parliament.scot