



# Freedom of Information Request

**04 January 2023**

## Question

I would like to know:

1. Confirmation of whether or not the Scottish Ambulance Service record when a patient has died in an ambulance. What I am specifically asking here is not about causation of death, just simply the fact that a patient did die/pass away inside an ambulance.  
If not then please give the rationale for not doing so.
2. If the SAS does record patient deaths in ambulances, then please provide the number of patients who have passed away in ambulances in the last five financial years. Please break the figure down per year.

## Answer

The Scottish Ambulance Service records data in two ways first being, against a number of clinical codes generated through our 999-triage systems used by our Ambulance Control Centre. This is dependent on the information provided during the 999 call and is unique to the time of entry. Secondly we are able to provide data sets based on the final outcome clinical code, input by the attending ambulance clinicians based on the presenting clinical symptom(s) needing treatment.

We do not hold a clinical code against the criteria you have asked for. What we would hold for example is the number of cardiac arrests attended.

The Scottish Ambulance service does not hold causation data for death and for this we would ask you to re-direct your request to the National Records of Scotland and Public Health Scotland, Data and Intelligence (previously known as ISD Scotland). This is where you will find the information regarding the number of deaths, under a stated category.

We have no definitive way to measure how many deaths were recorded in an ambulance, so we are unable to give a definitive number of patients who have died in the ambulance. Therefore we do not hold the information you require.

**Working Together for Better Patient Care**

**01 Dec 2022 - 18 Dec 2022**

Health Board	Number of Incidents Temp < 35 Or LO	Number of Incidents with Diagnostic Code = Heat/Cold Exposure
Ayrshire and Arran	74	<5
Borders	14	0
Dumfries and Galloway	28	<5
Fife	51	<5
Forth Valley	39	<5
Grampian	80	<5
Greater Glasgow and Clyde	170	<5
Highland	64	0
Lanarkshire	76	<5
Lothian	121	<5
Orkney	<5	<5
Shetland	<5	0
Tayside	66	<5
Western Isles	7	<5
Unknown/Other	<5	0
<b>Sum:</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>25</b>