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**Professor Sir Ian Diamond | National Statistician**

Esther McVey MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

15 June 2022

Dear Ms McVey,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am responding to your Parliamentary Questions asking with reference to *Excess deaths in England and Wales: March 2020 to December 2021*<sup>1</sup> published by the Office for National Statistics on 22 March 2022, what the cause of death was for excess deaths in males ages 15 to 19 years old (**15723**); and if the Government will publish data on death by data occurrence of those mentioned in those statistics (**15724**).

As part of this release, the Office for National Statistics provide the number of excess deaths by cause for males aged 5 to 19. These can be found in Table 1. Alongside this article we released *COVID-19 vaccination and mortality in young people during the coronavirus pandemic*<sup>2</sup>. The number of deaths and excess deaths by selected causes for males aged 15 to 19 that occurred in 2020 can be found in Table 2.

The number of deaths by age group is available by both week of registration and week of occurrence is available each week on the ONS website<sup>3</sup>.

Yours sincerely,



**Professor Sir Ian Diamond**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/excessdeathsinenglandandwalesmarch2020todecember2021>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/causesofdeath/articles/covid19vaccinationandmortalityinyoungpeopleduringthecoronaviruspandemic/2022-03-22#death-occurrences-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/weeklyprovisionalfiguresondeathsregisteredinenlandandwales>

**Table 1: Leading causes of excess death<sup>4</sup> of males aged 15-19, registered March 2020 to December 2021<sup>5</sup>, England and Wales<sup>6</sup>**

Leading cause	Total deaths <sup>7</sup>	Total excess <sup>8</sup> deaths <sup>9</sup>	Percent age above expected deaths (%)
Homicide and probable homicide	121	33	37.5
Accidental poisoning	73	13	21.7
Systemic atrophies primarily affecting the central nervous system	8	5	166.7
Cerebral palsy and other paralytic syndromes	43	4	10.3
Accidental threats to breathing	42	3	7.7

Source: Office for National Statistics

<sup>4</sup> These figures represent death registrations, there can be a delay between the date a death occurred and the date a death was registered. More information can be found in our [impact of registration delays release](#).

<sup>5</sup> All figures for 2021 are provisional.

<sup>6</sup> Figures for England and Wales combined include deaths of non-residents. Figures for England and Wales separately exclude deaths of non-residents.

<sup>7</sup> The average for 2015 to 2019 provides a comparison of the number of deaths expected in a usual (non-pandemic) year and has been used as a comparison for deaths registered in 2020 and 2021. The five-year average for March 2020 to December 2021 is the average of March to December 2015 to 2019 and January to December 2015 to 2019 again to give a 22 month total.

<sup>8</sup> Individual breakdowns, for five-year averages and excess deaths, (for example age group, months, countries, regions, local authorities) may not sum to other totals due to rounding.

<sup>9</sup> Excess deaths are defined as the number of deaths above or below the five-year average.

**Table 2: Deaths<sup>10</sup> of males in England<sup>11</sup> aged 15-19 by selected underlying cause of death and year of occurrence for 2015 to 2019 (annual average)<sup>12</sup> and 2020<sup>13</sup>**

Age group	Underlying cause of death	Annual average 2015-19	Deaths <sup>14</sup> 2020	Excess deaths in 2020 Compared with 2015-19	Adjusted deaths 2020	Excess adjusted deaths in 2020 Compared with 2015-19
15-19	All causes	476	407	-69	429	-47
15-19	Suicide and injury/poisoning of undetermined intent <sup>15</sup>	117	100	-17	107	-10
15-19	Homicide and probable homicide	49	46	-3	52	3
15-19	Accidental <sup>16</sup> poisoning <sup>17</sup>	30	34	4	35	5
15-19	Land transport accidents	56	39	-17	41	-15

*Source: Office for National Statistics*

<sup>10</sup> Figures are for deaths occurrences rather than deaths registered in each period.

<sup>11</sup> Figures for England exclude deaths of non-residents.

<sup>12</sup> For 2021, the five year average has been provided for 2015 to 2019 (rather than 2016 to 2020) because of the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on deaths registered in 2020. The average for 2015 to 2019 provides a comparison of the number of deaths expected per month in a usual (non-coronavirus pandemic) year.

<sup>13</sup> Figures for 2021 are based on provisional mortality data.

<sup>14</sup> Deaths records are extracted based on the underlying cause of death, defined using the International Classification of Diseases, tenth revision (ICD-10).

<sup>15</sup> Further information on the definition of suicide deaths is available in the [Suicide rates in the UK Quality and Methodology Information](#).

<sup>16</sup> Further information on the definition of drug-related deaths is available in the [Deaths related to drug poisoning in England and Wales Quality and Methodology Information](#).

<sup>17</sup> Further information on the definition of alcohol-specific deaths is available in the [Alcohol-specific deaths in the UK Quality and Methodology Information](#).