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John Pullinger CB CStat | National Statistician

Jon Trickett MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

25 April 2016

Dear Mr Trickett,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am replying to your Parliamentary Questions asking (i) how many people died of sudden cardiac death in the UK by (a) age and (b) region in each of the last five years (**34908**) and (ii) the number of people who died of Sudden Adult Death Syndrome in each of the last three years (**34924**).

Mortality statistics produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) are based on the information collected when a death is registered in England and Wales. Mortality data for Scotland and Northern Ireland are published by the Scottish Government and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency respectively.<sup>1</sup>

The number of deaths registered in England and Wales each year by sex, age and underlying cause are available from the ONS Mortality Statistics: Deaths Registered in England and Wales (Series DR) release. This is available on the ONS website: ([www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/deathsregisteredinenglandandwalesseriesdr/2015-11-09](http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/deathsregisteredinenglandandwalesseriesdr/2015-11-09))

Table 1 provides the number of deaths with an underlying cause of sudden cardiac death registered in the regions of England, and Wales in each year from 2010 to 2014 (the latest year available).

Table 2 provides the number of deaths with an underlying cause of sudden cardiac death registered in England and Wales by age group in each year from 2010 to 2014 (the latest year available).

Table 3 provides the number of deaths with an underlying cause of sudden death (cause unknown) or cardiac arrhythmia unspecified registered in England and Wales in each year from 2012 to 2014 (the latest year available).

ONS does not have a standard definition of sudden adult death syndrome. Sometimes a combination of all three of these causes listed above is referred to using the broad term sudden adult death syndrome. In England and Wales, deaths that are sudden and of unknown cause must be referred to the coroner for investigation. The underlying cause of death is dependent on the precise wording on the death certificate. Deaths certified as due to sudden adult death syndrome or that were stated as sudden with no cause identified, are recorded as sudden death, cause unknown. Sudden arrhythmic deaths are recorded with deaths from cardiac arrhythmia, which do not state whether they were sudden or not. There are other conditions that can cause sudden

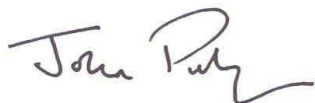
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<sup>1</sup> Scotland: [www.nrscotland.gov.uk/](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/)

Northern Ireland: [www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp30.htm](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp30.htm)

cardiac deaths, for example long QT syndrome, and progressive cardiac conduction defect, which are not included in the figures provided.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Pullinger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

**John Pullinger**

**Table 1: Number of deaths with an underlying cause of sudden cardiac death, regions of England, and Wales, deaths registered between 2010 and 2014<sup>i,ii,iii</sup>**

	<i>Deaths</i>				
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
North East	0	3	3	3	1
North West	2	3	9	7	5
Yorkshire and the Humber	7	1	3	1	4
East Midlands	4	1	3	5	2
West Midlands	10	13	14	17	24
East of England	8	3	4	11	7
London	18	4	8	8	8
South East	10	16	13	11	11
South West	4	7	8	13	13
Wales	1	0	2	1	1

**Table 2: Number of deaths with an underlying cause of sudden cardiac death by age group, England and Wales, deaths registered between 2010 and 2014<sup>i,ii,iii</sup>**

	<i>Deaths</i>				
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
<1	0	0	1	0	0
01-04	0	0	1	0	1
05-09	1	1	1	0	0
10-14	2	2	0	2	0
15-19	5	1	6	5	2
20-24	4	7	7	8	9
25-29	8	10	2	7	9
30-34	10	5	9	5	10
35-39	7	5	9	8	4
40-44	11	3	5	6	5
45-49	1	4	5	8	8
50-54	5	1	3	5	5
55-59	3	1	4	3	3
60-64	1	5	9	5	7
65-69	3	2	3	5	5
70-74	0	1	0	7	2
75-79	2	1	0	4	3
80-84	1	0	0	1	1
85+	0	2	2	1	2

**Table 3: Number of deaths with an underlying cause of sudden death (cause unknown) or cardiac arrhythmia unspecified, England and Wales, deaths registered between 2012 and 2014<sup>i,ii,iii</sup>**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Deaths</b>
2012	226
2013	242
2014	261

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<sup>i</sup> Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth edition (ICD-10) codes I46.1 for sudden cardiac death, I49.9 for cardiac arrhythmia, unspecified and R96 for sudden death, cause unknown.

<sup>ii</sup> 2 Figures for England and Wales combined include deaths of non-residents. Figures for England and Wales separately exclude death of non-residents based on boundaries as of February 2016

<sup>iii</sup> Figures are for deaths registered rather than deaths occurring in each calendar year. It can take months or even years for a death to be registered. More details about registration delays can be found in the 'Deaths Registered Series':

[www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/death-registered-in-england-and-wales-series-dr/2015-11-09](http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/death-registered-in-england-and-wales-series-dr/2015-11-09)