
Professor Sir Ian Diamond | National Statistician

Geraint Davies MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

24 April 2023

Dear Mr Davies,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am responding to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people have died from obesity in England and North Ireland in each year since 2017 **(181814)**.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes statistics on deaths registered in England and Wales. Mortality statistics are compiled from information supplied when deaths are certified and registered as part of civil registration. Causes mentioned on the death certificate are converted to International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) codes, with the underlying cause of death defined as the disease or injury that initiated the events that directly lead to the death. At the ONS, we use the term “due to” to refer to the underlying cause of a death. The ICD-10 code for obesity is E66.

Table 1 of the attached dataset shows the number of deaths due to obesity each year since 2017, in England taken from NOMIS. Data for 2022 will be available from mid-2023. Mortality data for deaths registered in Northern Ireland is available from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)¹.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Sir Ian Diamond

¹ <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/births-deaths-and-marriages/deaths>

Table 1: Number of deaths due to obesity between 2017 to 2021, England^{2,3}

Year	England
2017	509
2018	508
2019	505
2020	496
2021	539

Source: Office for National Statistics

² Figures are for deaths registered, rather than death occurrences.

³ Number of deaths by ICD-10 code are available through our explorable dataset NOMIS from 2013 onwards, this can be accessed here:

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?reset=yes&mode=construct&dataset=161&version=0&anal=1&initsele=>