
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 Questions asking how many people died from air pollution in (a) England, (b) North Ireland in each year since 2017 (**181810**); how many people died from air pollution in (a) East Midlands, (b) East of England, (c) Greater London, (d) North East, (e) North West, (f) South East, (g) South West, (h) West Midlands, (i) Yorkshire and the Humber and (j) England in each year since 2018 (**181816**); and what proportion of all adult deaths in England in 2019 from (a) heart disease, (b) stroke, (c) chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, (d) lung cancer and (e) dementia and Alzheimer's disease were caused by air pollution (**181822**).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for the production of mortality data for England and Wales, this is based on information collected from the death certificate at death registration. Causes of death are certified in most deceased persons by a doctor, who records the sequence of medical conditions and relevant events leading to, or contributing to, the death, based on the deceased's healthcare records and other available information, such as laboratory tests or post-mortem investigation. Some deaths are certified by a coroner who determines the causes of death following an inquest, based on all the available evidence.

It is unusual for wider contextual factors, such as exposure to pollution or air quality, to be recorded among the causes of death, and only one death in England and Wales had exposure to air pollution (International Classification of Diseases, Tenth revision (ICD-10) code Z581) recorded on the death certificate over the period 2001 to 2021. Therefore, figures on deaths caused by air pollution are not readily available from this source.

The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), formerly part of Public Health England (PHE), has published a range of information about the health effects of pollution¹ including selected indicators for local areas².

Yours sincerely,



Professor Sir Ian Diamond

¹<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/air-pollution-applying-all-our-health/air-pollution-applying-all-our-health>

²<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/air%20pollution#page/0/qid/1/pat/6/par/E12000004/ati/102/are/E06000015/iid/92924/age/-1/sex/-1>