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**Professor Sir Ian Diamond | National Statistician**

Geraint Davies MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

23 May 2023

Dear Mr Davies,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am responding to your Parliamentary Questions asking pursuant to the Answer of 9 May to Question 183298 on Death: Greater London, how many total deaths excluding excess deaths due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) of people aged 30 years and older were there in Greater London in each year between 2018 and 2022 (**185870**); how many deaths from all causes there were in people aged 30 and older 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 Humber and (j) England in each year since 2018 (**185871**); and how many deaths from all causes excluding covid-19 there were in people aged 30 and older 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 Humber and (j) England in each year since 2018 (**185872**).

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 10th edition (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 COVID-19" when referring only to deaths with an underlying cause of death of COVID-19.

The term 'excess deaths' refers to the number of deaths above the five-year average. Prior to 2020 there were no deaths due to COVID-19. Therefore, it is not possible to calculate a five-year average for deaths due to COVID-19. For this reason, in answer to your first question we have removed all deaths due to COVID-19 rather than excess due to COVID-19. For more information on understanding excess deaths during a pandemic, please see our related blog<sup>1</sup>.

We are now investigating different ways to calculate the expected number of deaths used in excess death calculations. The background to this work and information on how to get in contact can be found in our 'How we measure expected and excess deaths' blog<sup>2</sup>.

Table 1 shows the number of deaths due to all causes among those aged 30 years and above by year and English region, registered 2018 to 2023. Table 2 shows the number of

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<sup>1</sup><https://blog.ons.gov.uk/2022/01/12/understanding-excess-deaths-during-a-pandemic/>

<sup>2</sup><https://blog.ons.gov.uk/2023/02/10/how-do-we-measure-expected-and-excess-deaths/>

deaths excluding deaths due to COVID-19 among those aged 30 years and above by year and English region, registered 2020 to 2023. Figures for 2023 are provisional and include deaths registered between 1 January and 30 April 2023.

The ONS welcomes interest in its mortality statistics. If a broader conversation on our mortality statistics would be helpful to you, please let us know and we can arrange a discussion with my team.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Diamond', written in a cursive style.

**Professor Sir Ian Diamond**

**Table 1: Number of all-cause deaths, persons aged 30 years and over, English region, deaths registered 2018 to 2022 and January to April 2023<sup>3,4,5,6</sup>**

| Region                          | 2018    | 2019    | 2020    | 2021    | 2022    | 2023<br>(Jan to Apr) |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------|
| <b>East</b>                     | 57,969  | 56,526  | 63,274  | 62,964  | 61,152  | 23,208               |
| <b>East Midlands</b>            | 45,619  | 44,795  | 51,534  | 49,835  | 49,290  | 18,639               |
| <b>London</b>                   | 49,293  | 47,878  | 58,657  | 55,939  | 50,978  | 18,663               |
| <b>North East</b>               | 28,073  | 27,716  | 31,877  | 29,895  | 29,784  | 11,218               |
| <b>North West</b>               | 71,296  | 71,017  | 83,132  | 77,911  | 77,618  | 29,068               |
| <b>South East</b>               | 81,635  | 80,260  | 90,536  | 89,224  | 87,290  | 32,834               |
| <b>South West</b>               | 57,207  | 55,743  | 60,640  | 60,664  | 61,973  | 23,316               |
| <b>West Midlands</b>            | 55,390  | 53,720  | 63,937  | 60,630  | 58,937  | 22,399               |
| <b>Yorkshire and The Humber</b> | 52,331  | 51,792  | 59,767  | 55,387  | 56,362  | 20,750               |
| <b>England</b>                  | 498,813 | 489,447 | 563,354 | 542,449 | 533,384 | 200,095              |

*Source: Office for National Statistics*

<sup>3</sup>Based on date a death was registered rather than occurred.

<sup>4</sup>Figures for 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 are based on finalised mortality data. Figures for 2023 are provisional.

<sup>5</sup>Figures for 2023 are deaths registered up to 30 April 2023.

<sup>6</sup>Figures are based on area of usual residence and exclude non-residents.

**Table 2: Number of deaths excluding deaths due to COVID-19, persons aged 30 years and over, English region, deaths registered 2020 to 2022 and January to April 2023<sup>7,8,9,10,11,12</sup>**

| Region                          | 2020    | 2021    | 2022    | 2023<br>(Jan to Apr) |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------|
| <b>East</b>                     | 56,809  | 54,492  | 58,740  | 22,398               |
| <b>East Midlands</b>            | 45,285  | 44,265  | 47,261  | 18,058               |
| <b>London</b>                   | 48,623  | 46,445  | 48,592  | 18,074               |
| <b>North East</b>               | 27,412  | 27,057  | 28,601  | 10,834               |
| <b>North West</b>               | 70,718  | 69,362  | 74,672  | 28,180               |
| <b>South East</b>               | 81,401  | 78,018  | 84,079  | 31,806               |
| <b>South West</b>               | 56,656  | 55,979  | 59,781  | 22,624               |
| <b>West Midlands</b>            | 55,723  | 53,276  | 56,592  | 21,689               |
| <b>Yorkshire and The Humber</b> | 51,535  | 50,190  | 54,094  | 20,126               |
| <b>England</b>                  | 494,162 | 479,084 | 512,412 | 193,789              |

*Source: Office for National Statistics*

<sup>7</sup>Based on date a death was registered rather than occurred.

<sup>8</sup>Figures for 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 are based on finalised mortality data. Figures for 2023 are provisional.

<sup>9</sup>Figures for 2023 are deaths registered up to 30 April 2023.

<sup>10</sup>Figures are based on area of usual residence and exclude non-residents.

<sup>11</sup>International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) codes: Coronavirus (U07.1, U07.2, U09.9, U10.9).

<sup>12</sup>Deaths due to COVID-19 are only available from 2020.