



Paul Lowe
Chief Executive, Registrar General, and Keeper
National Records of Scotland
HM General Register House
2 Princes Street

28/10/20

Re. Continual monitoring of COVID deaths by Ethnicity and Religion

Cc: Minister for Equalities and Older People Ms. Christina McKelvie MSP

Dear Mr. Lowe

In August 2020, the Ethnic Minority National Resilience Network recommended to the Expert Reference Group on COVID and Ethnicity that the National Records of Scotland (NRS) must continue to publish COVID ethnicity and mortality data on a regular basis.

This data should be published to ensure that minority ethnic groups disproportionately affected by COVID mortality between March and July such as the Irish and Pakistani ethnic groups are not continued as mortality rates rise again.

This data must also be available to ensure that no new ethnic vulnerabilities accelerate as we continue to navigate a safe pathway through this challenge.

As such, we would like to seek clarification from the NRS on their plans to provide ethnicity mortality data in the coming weeks and months to inform policy responses.

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In addition, we would certainly call on the NRS to explore the potential of our advice and request that an update is provided on the recommendation to include religion as a monitoring characteristic in the death registration certificate process.

We sincerely appreciate an informed response from you, and equally we convey our thanks to you for your time and expertise in these matters during these challenging times.

For and On Behalf of BEMIS Scotland and the EMNRN

Sincerely



Rami Ousta
Chief Executive Officer,



Jenni Keenan
Chair of Data, Health and Social Outcomes EMNRN subgroup

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