

# **National Records announce third quarter deaths 15% above average**

**National Records of Scotland announced today that 15,145 deaths were registered in Scotland between 1 July and 30 September 2021.**

This is 15.3% higher than the average number of deaths (13,147) for quarter 3 in the five year period of 2015-2019.

Coronavirus (Covid-19) was the underlying cause of 789 deaths during quarter 3.

Today's figures when compared with the average for 2015-2019 show:

- The number of cancer deaths rose by 2.9 per cent to 4,202
- The number of deaths from coronary heart disease rose by 10.7 per cent to 1,651
- The number of deaths from dementia and Alzheimer's disease rose by 13.5 per cent to 1,484
- Deaths from respiratory diseases fell by 2.7 per cent to 1,306
- There were 906 deaths from cerebrovascular disease (an increase of 3.2 per cent)

There were 12,548 births registered in Scotland in quarter 3.

This is 9% lower than the quarter 3 average of 13,788 over the five years 2015-2019.

Julie Ramsay, Vital Events Statistician, said: “This year’s quarter 3 deaths are 15.3% higher than the five year average.

Together with the low number of births, today’s statistics reveal a widening gap between births and deaths.”

Marriages in Scotland have almost returned to pre-pandemic numbers. There were 10,540 marriages in quarter 3, only 1% fewer than the quarter 3 average for 2015 – 2019.

There were 335 same-sex marriages, a decrease from the five year average of 384, whilst same-sex civil partnerships increased to 32, compared to an average of 21 for quarter 3.

Civil partnerships were made available to all couples in June this year, and of the 248 civil partnerships registered in the third quarter of 2021, 216 involved mixed-sex couples.

### [Births, Deaths and other Vital Events – Quarterly Figures](#)

**The number of deaths was 15% higher than the five-year average**

15,145 deaths were registered in July - September 2021. That's 15.3% higher than the five year average.

Number of deaths by quarter (Q1, Q2, **Q3**, Q4)

