

**Freedom of Information Act 2000**

**FOI Ref: 15152**

**Date: 20 December 2007**

I am writing to confirm that NISRA has now completed its search for the information which you requested on 11 December 2007 in relation to:

*“fatality rates from bronchial pneumonia for those elderly entitled to free flu jabs in Northern Ireland for the first three years after the introduction of the jab”..... “bronchial pneumonia fatality rates for the same group of people for the last complete three years before the introduction of the same jab in NI.”*

Please note your supplementary question in relation to “copies of any reports which examine the effectiveness of the flu jabs for Northern Ireland” is being dealt with separately by DHSSPS under FOI Number 15253. If you have any queries on this matter you should contact them directly.

The table below gives statistics on:

- (i) the number of people aged 65 and over whose death was registered each year, 1997 to 2006;
- (ii) the number of people aged 65 and over with a primary cause of death due to bronchopneumonia<sup>1</sup>, 1997 to 2006.
- (iii) the estimated number of people aged 65 and over in the population, 1997 to 2006.
- (iv) The death rate from bronchopneumonia per 1,000 population aged 65 and over.

Registration Year	All deaths of those aged 65+	Deaths of those aged 65+ caused by bronchopneumonia <sup>1</sup>	Population aged 65+	Bronchopneumonia death rate per 1,000 population aged 65+
1997 <sup>a</sup>	12,024	1,505	217,949	6.9
1998 <sup>a</sup>	12,050	1,467	219,408	6.7
1999 <sup>a</sup>	12,647	1,833	220,138	8.3
2000 <sup>a</sup>	11,965	1,657	221,248	7.5
2001 <sup>b</sup>	11,725	796	223,966	3.6
2002 <sup>b</sup>	11,634	702	227,349	3.1
2003 <sup>b</sup>	11,738	745	230,147	3.2
2004 <sup>b</sup>	11,419	642	233,413	2.8
2005 <sup>b</sup>	11,263	602	236,265	2.5
2006 <sup>b</sup>	11,464	603	239,347	2.5

<sup>a</sup> International Classification of Diseases version 9 used to classify deaths by cause

<sup>b</sup> International Classification of Diseases version 10 used to classify deaths by cause

<sup>1</sup>International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision code J18.0 for years 2001-2006 and Ninth Revision code 485 for years 1997-2000.

The statistics represent deaths coded using the International Statistical Classification of Causes of Death (ICD). The version of ICD was updated by the World Health Organisation to version 10 and this was introduced in the UK in 2001. Due to the change from version 9 to version 10 annual mortality figures for pneumonia are not directly comparable. A double coding exercise was carried out on all deaths registered in 2000 using both ICD9 and ICD10. In 2000 there were 1,657 deaths coded in ICD9 as bronchopneumonia for those aged 65 and over. In contrast using ICD10 on the 2000 death registrations only around half of these deaths were coded to bronchopneumonia. Thus the impact of the change of coding alone is likely to reduce death figures by 50% from 2001 onwards.

Detailed information about deaths by cause in Northern Ireland is published in Chapter Six of the Annual Report of the Registrar General. The most recent report, published on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2007, was the 2006 Report and data from Chapter six of this report can be found at the following link:  
[http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/publications/annual\\_reports/2006/Chpt\\_6\\_2006.xls](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/publications/annual_reports/2006/Chpt_6_2006.xls)

Equivalent historical data back to 1922 is also available on the website at the following link:  
[http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp?cmsid=20\\_45\\_100&cms=demography\\_Publications\\_Registrar+General+Annual+Reports&release](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp?cmsid=20_45_100&cms=demography_Publications_Registrar+General+Annual+Reports&release)

If you require any further information please contact NISRA Customer Services at [census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk).