

From: Ivan Browne
Sent: 05 November 2014 12:23
To: Cllr Michael Cooke
Subject: Excess Winter Deaths Data

Dear Councillor Cooke

I am aware that under the winter plan update which is being submitted to the Health Scrutiny Commission, I have been unable to provide you with an update on the excess seasonal death statistics I presented last year. Knowing that you have a particular interest in this area, and to support the information I provide in the report, I thought it would be useful to supply you with some background as to why we are unable to provide the 2013/14 figures.

Our information analyst has checked published data for excess winter mortality on the ONS website and, as I stated in the update, there is currently only local authority data for 2011/12 (published 26 Nov 2013) . National data for 2013/14 is apparently due to be released around late Nov-Dec 2014. However, I am concerned that this may not include a local authority breakdown of the data to include 2013/14 results as the 2012/13 published data only breaks the national data down as far as regional levels at present. We assume that at some point they will produce a further breakdown to local authority level but currently this seems to be taking much longer than has been the case in previous years.

I'm trying to get to the bottom of this problem and at present all I have been told is that there is some delay in the registered death returns and the consequence release of ONS deaths data. The complete mortality data set for 2013 will only be released in Dec 2014.

We do have some local deaths data for 2013/14 within the department, but unfortunately this is not yet complete for July 2014 which is needed to calculate the seasonal deaths during 2013/14. However, once we are able to access this we will be able to calculate our excess winter deaths should this year's ONS report fail to provide.

I hope this explanation helps and please feel free to contact me if there is anything you wish discuss any aspects of this further.

Regards

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