

Whole of Government Accounts

News story

GAD has marked its 10-year long association working on the Whole of Government Accounts, which was launched a decade ago.



The Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) marked its 10-year anniversary and experts at the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) have been involved throughout that decade.

The latest WGA (for 2018 to 2019) [shows audited accounts](#) of more than 8,000 public sector organisations. This in turn has produced a comprehensive picture of the UK public sector.

GAD's involvement

We have supported HM Treasury in the development of the WGA since its inception in 2008. GAD has contributed reports, expertise and analysis in a wide range of areas.

These have included:

- public service pension liabilities – where financial assumptions, mortality rates and projected salary increases are used to determine the value of scheme liabilities
- provision for clinical negligence – where GAD, appointed by NHS Resolution, undertakes regular reviews to identify movements in the value of likely future settlements

Long term

GAD actuary Sarah Waters said: "Our work is integral to the overall picture of the WGA especially as we now mark 10 years since it began. We have been involved since the start as we helped with the original design."

"We undertake detailed and long-term analysis of these aspects of public sector finances. It means that these aspects of the report are fully

supported by GAD.”

Audit and scrutiny

The WGA is independently audited which provides greater confidence in the figures. The Public Accounts Committee also examine the accounts each year. Further the WGA is used to support longer term fiscal analysis by other organisations such as the Office for Budget Responsibility.

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[Are you ready for 1 January 2021? Join us to find out how to prepare](#)

We have been listening to our marine and fishing industries and adapting accordingly. While negotiations on any trade agreements continue, there is still much we can all do to prepare for the changes and opportunities ahead as an independent coastal state.

We would like to offer you an opportunity to join Phil Haslam, Operations Director, at the Marine Management Organisation on a video call where we will update you on the latest guidance and information.

The call will be useful for active fishing businesses fishing in both UK or EU waters, fishers who direct land catch into the EU, and merchants and companies that export fish and seafood to the EU. You will also have an opportunity to ask questions or you can send your questions to us in advance to communications@marinemanagement.org.uk.

North East and North West marine area

Monday 23 November, 16.00 – 17.00

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 916 961A2 0943

Passcode: 045361

East marine area

Tuesday 24 November, 13.00 – 14.00

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 993 2545 0769

Passcode: 801319

South East and South marine area

Tuesday 24 November, 13.00 – 14.00

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 928 2319 1608

Passcode: 005849

South West marine area

Wednesday 25 November, 11.00 – 12.00

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 944 8805 4869

Passcode: 163457

If you would like to attend, simply join one of the video calls by using the details above.

We have extended our helpline hours and our team in fisheries management to assist businesses preparing for the end of the transition period. This will be further extended from 16 November.

We are also assisting fishers and merchants to meet the required deadlines for data submission and this has had a positive response with improvements so far in many areas.

We have developed a [‘one-stop-shop’](#) signposting commercial fishers, merchants and exporters to the help and support available as they get ready for the end of the transition period.

You can also sign up for e-mail updates on the [government’s website](#).

[Foreign Secretary’s call with Arancha González-Laya, 12 November 2020](#)

News story

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab spoke to the Spanish Foreign Minister today to discuss the UK and Gibraltar’s future relationship with the European Union.



A Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office spokesperson said:

The Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab spoke to Spanish Foreign Minister Arancha González-Laya today to discuss the UK and Gibraltar's future relationship with the European Union and the fight against COVID-19.

On Gibraltar, it was agreed that the UK, the Government of Gibraltar and Spain will continue working constructively to find a solution in order to ensure ongoing prosperity in the region. The Foreign Secretary reiterated the UK's firm commitment to finding a solution that protects Gibraltar, its people and its economy.

On COVID-19, the Foreign Secretary welcomed Spain's contribution to COVAX, the international scheme for ensuring equitable access to vaccines.

The Foreign Secretary and Minister González-Laya both looked forward to meeting in person in the near future.

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[Newyddion sifil/trosedd: newid rhif ffon llinell gymorth Cymraeg](#)

News story

Rhaid galwadau i'r llinell Gymraeg nawr gael eu gwneud i 0300 200 2020.



Mae ein llinell ffôn Cymraeg nawr wedi newid i 0300 200 2020.

Mae'r rhif hwn yn cysylltu ein galwyr i'r tîm gwasanaeth cwsmeriaid. Mae pob galwyr yn cael cynnig yr opsiwn Cymraeg neu Saesneg pan fydd yn cysylltu.

Byddent yn cael eu gofyn i bwyso'r goriad # am sgwrs yn Gymraeg.

Bydd galwyr sydd eisiau sgwrs yn Saesneg yn gorfod dal ar am fwy o opsiynau.

Bydd y rhif Cymraeg hen 0845 609 9989 yn cael eu diffodd yn gyfan gwbl ar y 1 Rhagfyr 2020.

Hyd at 1 Rhagfyr 2020, bydd galwadau i'r hen rif yn cael eu hailgyfeirio i'r rhif newydd 0300 200 2020.

Mae darpariaeth y gwasanaeth hwn yn elfen bwysig o'r Cynllun Iaith Gymraeg rydym yn gweithredu yng Nghymru.

Gwynodaeth pellach

[Fersiwn Saesneg o'r erthygl hwn](#)

Published 12 November 2020

People with learning disabilities had higher death rate from COVID-19

The report, [Deaths of people identified as having learning disabilities with COVID-19 in England in the Spring of 2020](#) examined data from The English Learning Disabilities Mortality Review (LeDeR) and NHS England's COVID-19 Patient Notification System (CPNS) which records deaths in hospital settings.

It found 451 per 100,000 people registered as having a learning disability died with COVID-19 between 21 March and 5 June, a death rate 4.1 times higher than the general population after adjusting for other factors such as age and

sex.

But as not all deaths in people with learning difficulties are registered on these databases, researchers estimated the real rate may have been as high as 692 per 100,000, 6.3 times higher.

Deaths were also spread much more widely across the age spectrum among people with learning disabilities, with far greater mortality rates in younger adults, compared to the general population. The death rate for people aged 18 to 34 with learning disabilities was 30 times higher than the rate in the same age group without disabilities, researchers found.

Among people with learning disabilities, the rate of COVID-19 deaths for adults in residential care was higher than the rates of COVID-19 deaths of adults with learning disabilities generally. This difference is likely in part to reflect the greater age and disability in people in residential care.

People with learning disabilities are more likely to have other physical health problems such as obesity and diabetes, and certain kinds of learning disability, such as Down's syndrome, can make people more vulnerable to respiratory infections, which can increase their risk of dying from COVID-19.

Professor John Newton, Director of Health Improvement at Public Health England, said:

It is deeply troubling that one of the most vulnerable groups in our society suffered so much during the first wave of the pandemic. We must do everything possible to prevent this happening again.

There are now regular tests in care homes to make sure cases of coronavirus can be quickly identified and isolated, even if people do not recognise the symptoms themselves.

But with cases developing across the country, it is essential to practice rigorous infection control if you are in contact with someone with a learning disability, whether or not they live in a care home.

Wash your hands, wear a mask and keep a safe distance. The fewer people you meet, the more you'll stop the spread.

A learning disability is a significantly reduced ability to understand new or complex information and learn new skills and a reduced ability to cope independently which started before adulthood, with a lasting effect on development. That means that people with learning disabilities often may find it harder to manage basic everyday skills, and rely upon support for many tasks, including communicating, managing money or looking after themselves.

People with learning disabilities are likely to have had difficulty recognising symptoms of COVID-19, or following government advice about getting tested, self-isolation, social distancing and infection prevention

and control, the report says. It may also be more difficult for people caring for them to recognise the onset of symptoms if these cannot be communicated.

Helen Whately, Minister of State for Social Care, said:

Every death from COVID-19 has been a tragedy, and my deepest sympathies go out to everyone who has lost loved ones during the pandemic. I know how difficult this pandemic has been for people with a learning disability and those who care for them.

A third of those with learning disabilities who sadly died were living in residential care. There is now regular testing of staff and residents in care homes, and testing has also been rolled out to supported living settings in high risk areas. We're also offering free PPE, and the Joint committee on vaccines and immunisation has proposed those living and working in care homes should be top of the list for vaccination.

This report adds to our knowledge of COVID-19 and how those with learning disabilities are affected by this cruel disease. I am asking SAGE to review the findings and give advice on what more we can do to keep people safe.

Background information

The report, Deaths of people identified as having learning disabilities with COVID-19 in England in the Spring of 2020, followed a formal commission from Department of Health and Social Care, with the support of the Chief Medical Officer, to conduct further analysis of available data related to the deaths of people with learning disabilities from COVID-19 to inform policy and practice.

Resources for people with learning disabilities and their carers can be found at [NHS – learning-disability and autism](#)