



Registration Service 2023 Annual Report

The Registration Service

The Registration Service is responsible for the recording of all details relating to the registration of key life events in Clackmannanshire.

The Registration Office has operated from the Speirs Centre since October 2014. The accommodation in the Speirs Centre provides a modern, fit-for-purpose Registration Office with a reception area, registrar's work area, two private interview spaces, a ceremony room and a Local History Centre. Four terminals are available with the Local History Centre to give members of the public access to the national ScotlandsPeople system for researching their family history. Clackmannanshire is one of five local authorities in Scotland to offer this service. The other search centres are in Kilmarnock, Hawick, Inverness and Glasgow.

The Registration Service transferred to the Legal and Democracy Service in July 2019. Registration staff works in partnership with the National Records of Scotland to ensure that a consistent and professional service is delivered.

The core services provided by the Registration staff includes:

- Registration of births, still-births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships
- Performing civil marriages, civil partnership and citizenship ceremonies
- Genealogy research services
- Providing an online certificate ordering service - scottishcertificates.org.uk

Although part of Clackmannanshire Council, the Registration staff work in conjunction with, and under the guidance of, the Registrar General, National Records of Scotland, Edinburgh. The Registrar General compiles an annual Examiners Report. The latest report shows that Clackmannanshire achieved an accuracy rate of 99.58% in 2022. The accuracy rate for 2023 will not be issued until all of the registers have been examined. The 2023 examination for Clackmannanshire is due to take place early in 2024.

The Registration staff work closely with the Home Office in connection with the legal preliminaries for those who are subject to immigration control and who plan to be married or register a civil partnership in Scotland.

The provision of Citizenship Ceremonies, the final step in the path for those becoming British Citizens, can only be delivered by a Registrar. Once the registration staff receives the information about the new citizens from the Home Office a Citizenship Ceremony can be arranged. Group ceremonies are offered to new citizens with the attendance of the Lord Lieutenant, or his deputy.

Legislation and Working Practices

The most recent major changes in legislation and working practices which have impacted on the way the Registration service is delivered within the last few years include:

Calling in the Register Pages Project 2023/2024

Following the disruption due to the pandemic, National Records of Scotland (NRS) embarked on a modernisation project to transform the process where register pages are created and stored digitally. The event data is currently digitally recorded on an electronic registration system. Register pages, signed and stored in the registration office until the electronic data has been examined by an NRS District Examiner.

Throughout 2023 we have worked on the pilot scheme to introduce a fully digital registration process. In this new process the vast majority of future register pages will be:

- digital, rather than paper copies printed by the registrar
- signed digitally by the informant (person registering the event) and registrar using a transcribed signature, rather than a physical signature
- stored digitally for permanent preservation, rather than a paper archive

There are many benefits including:

- Data Security – the digital register pages will not need to be entrusted to a third party courier. This will ensure better data security as all the data will remain within NRS IT systems.
- Storage Space Savings – registration offices will no longer have to maintain complex and costly office safes, currently used for storage of register pages
- Time Savings – registrars will spend less time printing, handling, storing, packing and shipping register pages.
- Environmental Benefits – the project will help reduce the NRS carbon footprint by eliminating the need for courier journey to and from over 150+ registration offices. It would also reduce our paper consumption.

Clackmannanshire Council is one of the first Local Authorities to 'go live' with this Project on 6th February 2024.

Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Act 2022

Following the passing of the Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Act 2022, an informant may choose to register a birth, still-birth or death in-person, or they may wish to register the event remotely. From 24 September 2022, this Act contained provision for remote registration of births (live and stillbirth) and deaths to be an option across Scotland on a permanent basis.

The Gender Recognition (Marriage and Civil Partnership Registration) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2022

From 23 September 2022, a couple is able to apply to re-register their marriage or civil partnership following gender recognition. The regulations apply only to marriages and civil partnerships recorded in Scotland, or those carried out through UK consular services and UK armed forces overseas where the couple elected Scotland as the relevant part of the UK and National Records of Scotland holds details of the marriage or civil partnership.

Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014

The main provisions of the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act have now been implemented. These include:

- introducing same sex marriage in Scotland
- allowing civil partners in a civil partnership registered in Scotland to change their civil partnership to a marriage
- amending the Gender Recognition Act 2004

Certification of Death (Scotland) Act 2011

The aims of the Certification of Death (Scotland) Act 2011 are to:

- improve the quality and accuracy of Medical Certificates of Cause of Death
- provide improved public health information about causes of death in Scotland
- ensure that the processes around death certification are robust and have appropriate safeguards in place

The main provisions of the Act came into effect on 13 May 2015. Under the new system, Healthcare Improvement Scotland will independently review a random sample of Medical Certificates of Cause of Death. If the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death has been selected, the registration cannot be completed until the review is finished.

A pilot scheme for electronically completed Medical Certificates of Cause of Death is being undertaken with the Secondary Care Division. A successful implementation is already in place for the Primary Care Division. It is hoped that eventually all of the reviews will be completed before an informant attends for a death registration.

Immigration Act (2014)

Part 4 of the Immigration Act 2014 deals with Marriage and Civil Partnership, including:

- referral to the Home Office and investigation of proposed marriages and civil partnerships
- sham marriage and civil partnership

These provisions have recently been implemented and they require substantial changes to Registrar's procedures for the legal preliminaries for marriage and civil partnership.

Following the UK leaving the EU on 31 January 2020, rules governing the new relationship between the EU and UK took effect on 1 January 2021. Evidence is required for couples entering into a marriage or civil partnership where one or both of the parties is not a relevant national, or does not have appropriate immigration status, or the relevant visa for a marriage or civil partnership in the United Kingdom. From 1 July 2021, a 'relevant national' is described as 'a person who is a British citizen, Irish citizen, or any person with either EUSS settled status, EUSS pre-settled status, or a pending application to the EUSS'.

Scottish Certificates

We continue to offer an online ordering service for certificates at www.scottishcertificates.org.uk. The service commenced in July 2013. A priority service and certain postal delivery options are available.

Customer feedback has been very positive with many local, national and overseas customers telling us how easy it is to use the service. A Facebook page for Scottish Certificates was introduced in January 2018.

Tell Us Once - Change Reporting System

The Department for Work and Pensions Tell Us Once system enables the Registrar to offer the option to notify central government departments and council services about deaths following a registration. For the recently bereaved, using the Tell Us Once service can help to save a lot of time and effort in notifying relevant government and local authority services. There are also significant benefits for service providers in receiving verified, reliable information immediately after the registration of a death. Following the death registration, the Registrar captures the details for every death registered and issues the customer the details required to use the online or telephony Tell Us Once service.

Of the 691 deaths registered in 2023, over 1000 Tell Us Once notifications were used to notify Council services including Adult Social Services, Blue Badge, Council Housing, Council Tax, Electoral Office, Housing Benefit and Library Service. Government services also notified using the Tell Us Once service includes DWP, HMRC, DVLA, and Identity and Passport Service.

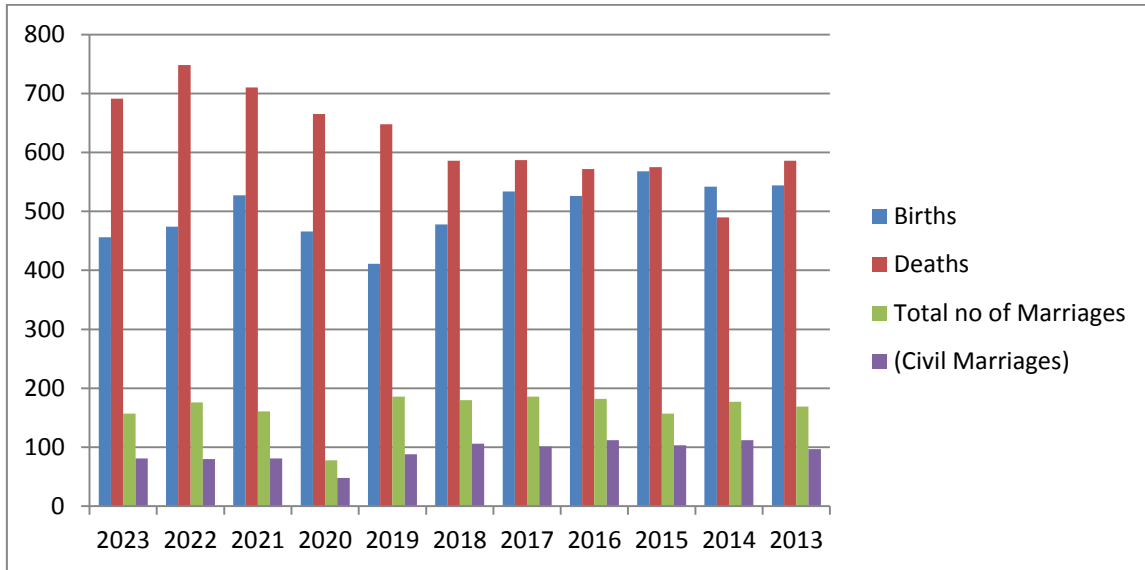
Three new services were added in September 2023. They were Leisure Services (to cancel a card for access to council-run sport, culture and leisure facilities) Licences and Permits (alcohol, gambling, market operators, street trader, taxi/private hire operator, window cleaning, skin piercing and tattooing) and Assisted Waste (if a person received help to move recycling or waste bins for collection).

Changes to Child Benefit application forms and the notification of other benefits to the DWP means there is now no need for the Registration Service to use the Tell Us Once following a birth registration. The Library is committed to delivering Every Child a Library Member to make sure every child in Scotland is an active library member. The registration staff promotes Every Child a Library Member at birth registrations and issue first library cards for babies.

2023 Statistics

Total Number of Events Registered in Clackmannanshire

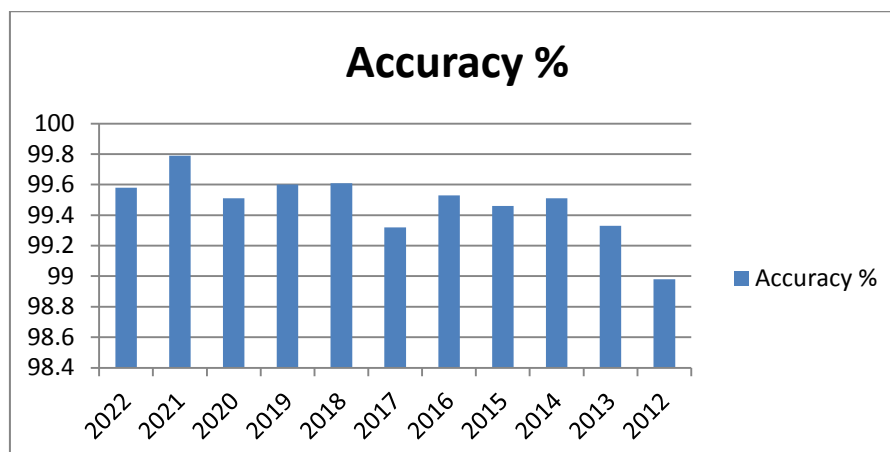
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Births	456	474	527	466	411	478	534	526	568	542	544
Deaths	691	748	710	665	648	586	587	572	575	490	586
Total no of Marriages	157	176	161	78	186	180	186	182	157	177	169
(Civil Marriages)	81	80	81	48	88	106	101	112	103	112	97



Registration Service Accuracy Figures

(Figures are verified in the Registrar General's annual Examiner's Report)

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Accuracy %	99.58	99.79	99.51	99.60	99.61	99.32	99.53	99.46	99.51	99.33	98.98



Births

456 babies were registered in Clackmannanshire in 2023, compared to 474 in 2022.

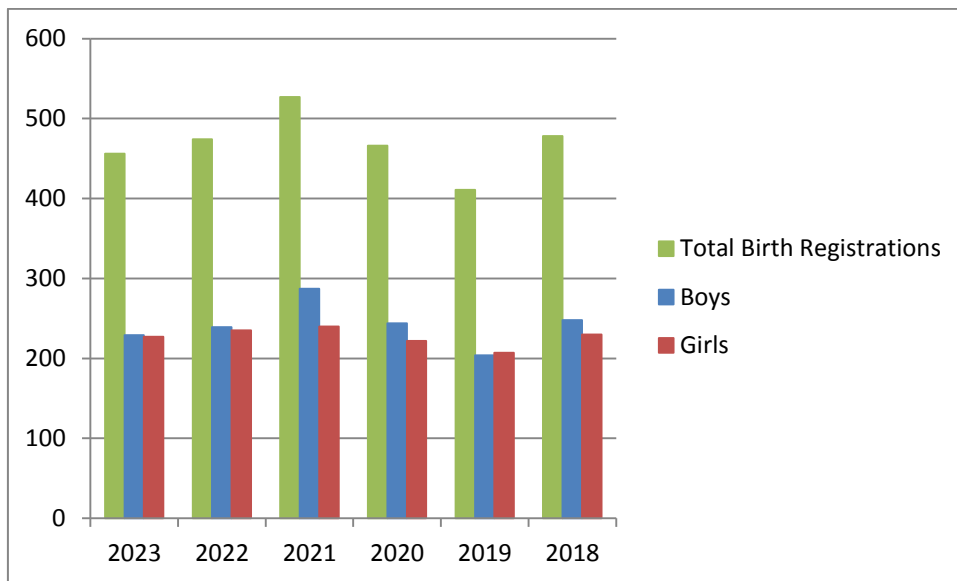
In 2023, boys outnumbered girls by 229 (51%) to 227 (49%).

This year 5 sets of twins were registered in Clackmannanshire. Three sets of twins were girls, one set was boys and one set of twins was one girl and one boy.

Harris and Noah were the most popular boys name in Clackmannanshire in 2023 with Archie and Lewis being second equal most popular. Ellie and Lily were the most popular girls name in Clackmannanshire with Ava, Freya, Harper, Maisie and Olivia being second equal most popular.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total Birth Registrations	456	474	527	466	411	478
Boys	229(51%)	239(51%)	287(54%)	244(52%)	204 49%)	248 (52%)
Girls	227(49%)	235 (49%)	240(46%)	222(48%)	207(51%)	230 (48%)

Birth Registrations in Clackmannanshire



Most popular names registered in Clackmannanshire in 2023

	Boys	Girls
Most Popular	=Harris, Noah	=Ellie, Lily
2 nd Most Popular	=Archie, Lewis	=Ava, Freya, Harper, Maisie and Olivia

Marriages

The total number of marriages in Clackmannanshire decreased from 176 in 2022 to 157 in 2023. Civil Marriages (performed by a Registrar or Assistant Registrar) accounted for 81 (51%) of all marriages; Religious or other Faith Groups 53 (34%) and Humanist 23 (15%).

Brides and grooms married in Clackmannanshire in 2023 had a wide range of birthplaces, including:

Scotland	England	Wales	Northern Ireland
Australia	France	Netherlands	South Africa
Belgium	Germany	Pakistan	USA
Bermuda	Laos	Philippines	Vietnam
Bulgaria	Latvia	Poland	Zimbabwe
Cyprus	Macedonia	Republic of Ireland	
Denmark	Namibia	Spain	

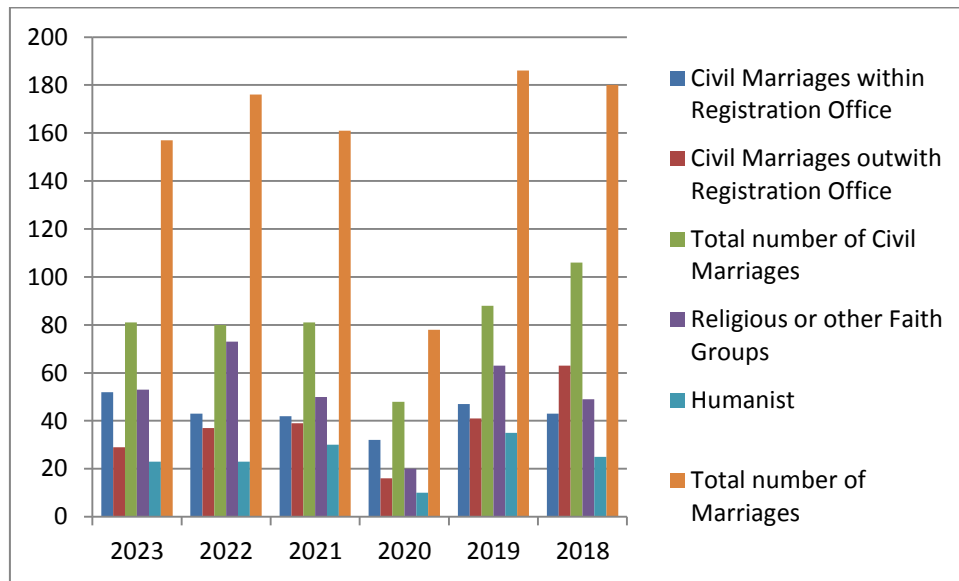
In 66 (42%) of the marriages, neither the bride nor groom was resident in Clackmannanshire.

For all marriages in Clackmannanshire, the average age for the bride was 38 years and the average age for the groom was 40 years.

The average age where neither the bride nor groom had not been married before was 31 years for the bride and 33 years for the groom.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Civil Marriages (within Registration Office)	52 (33%)	43 (24%)	42 (26%)	32 (41%)	47 (25%)	43 (24%)
Civil Marriages (outwith Registration Office)	29 (18%)	37 (21%)	39 (24%)	16 (21%)	41 (22%)	63 (35%)
Total number of Civil Marriages	81 (51%)	80 (45%)	81 (50%)	48 (62%)	88 (47%)	106 (59%)
Religious or other Faith Groups	53 (34%)	73 (42%)	50 (31%)	20 (25%)	63 (34%)	49 (27%)
Humanist	23 (15%)	23 (13%)	30 (19%)	10 (13%)	35 (19%)	25 (14%)
Total number of Marriages	157	176	161	78	186	180

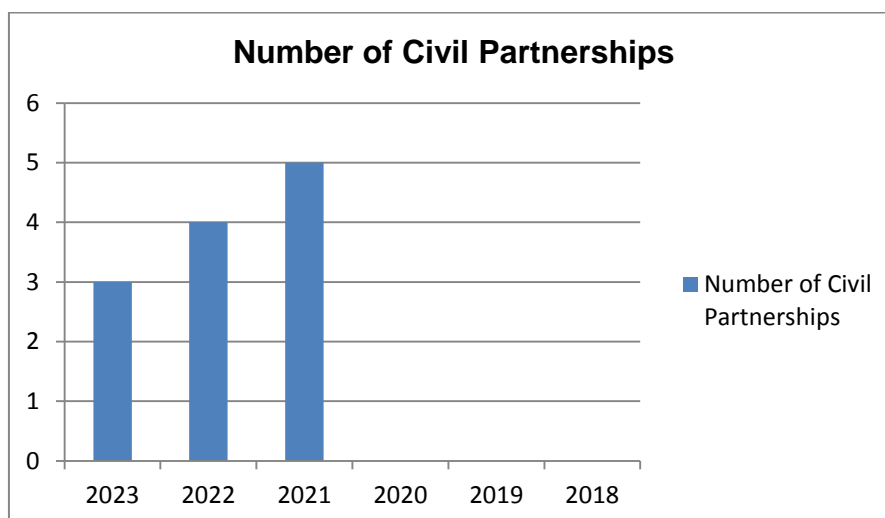
Marriages in Clackmannanshire



Civil Partnerships

The Civil Partnership Act 2004 was introduced to register civil partnership for same sex couples. The introduction of the **Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020** makes provision for mixed sex couples to register a civil partnership. 3 civil partnerships were registered in Clackmannanshire in 2023, compared to 4 in 2022, compared to 5 in 2021.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Number of Civil Partnerships	3	4	5	0	0	0



Deaths

At the beginning of the pandemic period, face to face death registrations were stopped on 23rd March 2020. The law was changed to allow death registrations to be completed remotely on 26th March 2020. Details for registrations are taken by telephone or email. The transcript of an informant's signature is inserted onto the register page. Following the passing of the Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Act 2022, an informant may choose to register a death in-person or remotely. This option became available across Scotland on a permanent basis from 24 September 2022.

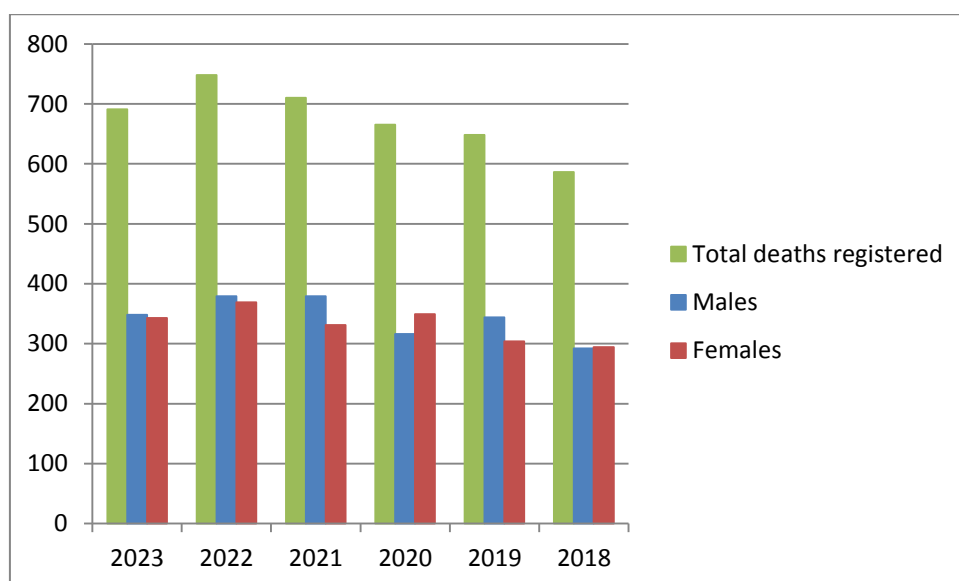
The number of deaths registered in Clackmannanshire has decreased from 748 in 2022 to 691 in 2023. Of the 691 deaths registered, 348 (51%) were men and 343 (49%) were women.

On average women live longer than men (78 years compared to 74 years for men).

COVID-19 Disease was recorded on 22 deaths registered in 2023, compared to 56 deaths registered in 2022, 84 deaths 2021 and 71 deaths in 2020.

Deaths in Clackmannanshire

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total deaths registered	691	748	710	665	648	586
Males	348	379	379	316	344	292
Females	343	369	331	349	304	294



Citizenship Ceremonies

Participation in a Citizenship Ceremony conducted by a Registrar is the final step in the process of becoming a British Citizen. 29 new British Citizens have been welcomed into Clackmannanshire in 2023, compared with 20 new British Citizens in 2022 and 24 new British Citizens in 2021. The countries of origin of the new British Citizens include:

Egypt	Pakistan	Turkey
India	Poland	USA
Jamaica	South Africa	USSR
Morocco	Syria	Vietnam

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Number of Citizenship Ceremonies	29	20	24	10	20	30

