



Report from Wales Retired Members



Cardiff demonstration against winter deaths

by Dereck Roberts, Equalities Officer
Swansea Area Retired Members Branch

January 2023

- Thursday 19 January, 11:00am
- Cardiff Central Square
- The themes: 'Say No to Heat or Eat,' 'Cold Homes Kill,' 'Energy For All' and 'Insulate our Homes'

The demonstration was held on the day on which the Office of National Statistics (ONS) released the winter deaths data.

The day also turned out to coincide with the Welsh NHS strikes of Unite ambulance workers so many people went to the NHS picket



line. On the demonstration we expressed our support for the striking ambulance workers.

The ONS data was the first set of such data to show the effect of COVID:

- The winter mortality (WM) index in England (7.3%) was significantly lower than every winter since the series began in 1991 to 1992, except in 2019 to 2020.
- In Wales, the WM index (7.1%) was significantly lower than all winters in the time series.
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) was the leading cause of winter mortality in England, with 25.9% more deaths occurring in the winter period than the non-winter period.
- In Wales, the leading cause of winter mortality was not COVID but dementia and Alzheimer's disease (15.2%).