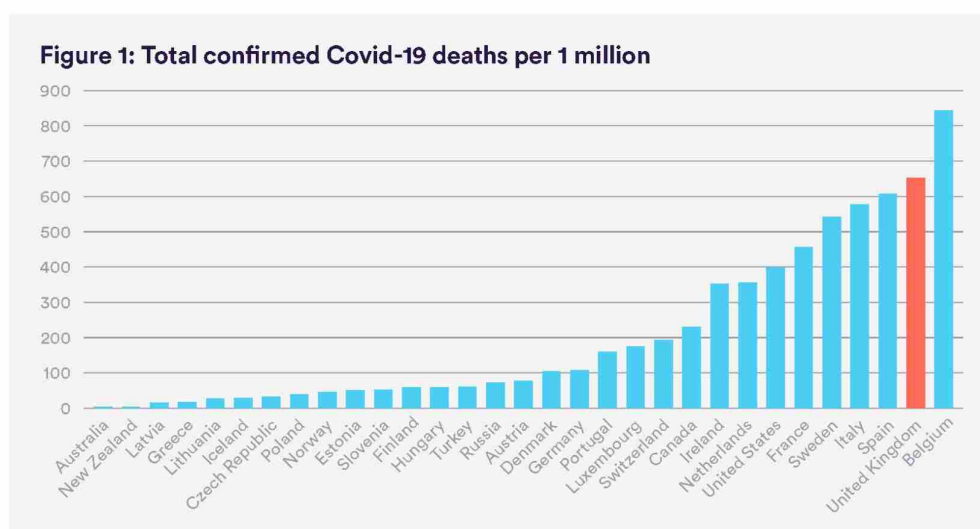


## Impact of the Covid-19 outbreak

While the UK ranks among the average for waiting times of the health systems analysed, its position is likely to deteriorate given how poorly the UK has contained the virus compared with most other countries, and it will have to resume services while Covid-19 remains a very real and active problem. The UK has recorded the third highest number of confirmed deaths from Covid-19 in the world, and second highest when accounting for differences in population size (as of 10 July 2020). Figure 1 below shows total confirmed Covid-19 deaths per capita of the countries analysed for this report.



Notes: Confirmed deaths as of 10 July 2020. Covid-19 deaths are defined, recorded and reported differently across countries, so international comparisons of Covid-19 deaths can be difficult and should be interpreted with caution.

Source: WHO Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) Dashboard, <https://covid19.who.int>

The problems comparing deaths across countries are well recognised, given differences and lags in reporting that may also underestimate the true scale of the impact if Covid-19 deaths are under-recorded. But studies that have looked at excess mortality – which avoids these issues by counting the number of deaths over and above the historical average – show that the UK also does worse than most other countries that have been similarly hard hit by the virus.<sup>9</sup> An analysis of excess deaths among European countries during the 11-week peak of the Covid-19 outbreak found the rate to be higher only in Spain (56%, compared with the UK's 52%).<sup>10</sup>