

than their estimate for the previous week. The equivalent estimates for the devolved administrations are:

England	633,000 (credible interval 599,200 to 668,200)
Scotland	45,700 (credible interval 35,000 to 58,100)
Wales	16,400 (credible interval 10,500 to 23,900)
Northern Ireland	12,700 (credible interval 8,100 to 18,600)

Reproduction number and growth rate

9. The reproduction number is the average number of secondary infections produced by a single infected individual. R is an average value over time, geographies, and communities. This should be considered when interpreting the R estimate for the UK given the differences in policies across the four nations.
10. **SPI-M-O's best estimate for R in the both the UK and England is between 0.9 and 1.0. Estimates of R for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are all 0.8-1.0.** R is a lagging indicator and these estimates are based on the latest data available up to 24th November. SPI-M-O's agreed national and regional estimates are summarised in Table 1 and Figures 1, 2, and 4.
11. The epidemic in the North West and North East and Yorkshire NHS England regions is now shrinking, with R estimated as 0.7-0.9 and 0.8-1.0 respectively. Incidence and prevalence in these regions, however, remain high with associated healthcare demand and mortality.
12. Only two NHS England regions, London and the South East, have R estimates with an entire range at or above 1.0 (1.0-1.1 and 1.0-1.2 respectively). Although SPI-M-O's estimates of R for these regions are above 1, the delay between recent trends and reflection in the latest data means R estimates may continue to decline in the future and may be below 1 for all regions already.
13. The delay between initial infection, developing symptoms and the need for hospital care, means that such estimates cannot yet fully reflect the most recent changes in transmission from the past two to three weeks. This means that **we cannot yet fully evaluate the impact of the national restrictions introduced in England on 5th November.** While R has decreased from the levels estimated in previous weeks, it may continue to fall due to this lag.