

CITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
COUNCIL

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 003549  
Date            7 May 2019

### ***Public Health Funerals***

#### **Request:**

Please could you kindly send me any information you may hold relating to persons who are/were known to the Council **via any of the following teams and who have died with:**

- no known next of kin (defined as blood relatives) OR
- where you have been **unable to engage with or locate any KNOWN next of kin,**

Please provide details of cases that have occurred or come to your attention since 1/2/19 to the day of your reply.

**The name of the team responsible varies but exists within all County Councils, London Boroughs, Unitary & Metropolitan District Councils.**

#### **Team names:**

- Deputyship
- Appointeeship
- Adult social care
- Client Finance Team
- Protection of Property
- Financial Assessment
- Other team name whereby Council official(s) were charged with handling the financial affairs of the (now deceased) person

**Please provide as much of the following information as you can:**

1. full names of deceased persons,  
[See response provided on page 4.](#)
2. dates of death,  
[See response provided on page 4.](#)
3. marital status,  
[See response provided on page 4.](#)

4. maiden surnames of married or widowed females,  
In response to question 4, Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at:
- Section 1(1) (a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held.
  - The second duty at Section 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

In respect of question 4, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the above information.

Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of the Act, that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".

5. dates of birth or ages at death,  
See response provided on page 4.
6. last known addresses,  
In response to question 6. above, the Council will not be disclosing the requested information.

The Council is of the view that this would constitute information whose disclosure to the wider world would raise concerns around the prevention or detection of crime and that Section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI, The Act) is engaged.

Section 31(1) states that:

"Information which is not exempt information by virtue of Section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice

–

(a) the prevention or detection of crime..."

In considering the public interest for and against disclosure in this case, the Council has considered the public interest in disclosing the last known address of the identified deceased people could aid the resolution of any estate-related queries.

Set against this however, the Council has also considered that disclosure to the wider world (which is how any disclosure made under the provisions of the Act must be judged) may cause harm such as fraud, identity theft, criminal acts and criminal trespass and damage to vacant residential property especially

when this information is put together with information that is already in the public domain.

In reaching this conclusion, the Council has taken account of guidance from the Information Commissioners Office and further considers that its approach is in accordance with the decisions reached by the Information Commissioners Office, published in decision notices FS50454267 regarding Westminster City Council – 4 December 2012 and also the decision in relation to Birmingham City Council FS50584670 – 14 October 2015.

In both cases the ICO accepted the arguments put forward by the public authorities in question regarding the application of Section 31 as detailed above.

The Council has also considered the case involving London Borough of Camden versus Mr Yiannis Voyias heard at the Information Tribunal on 22 January 2013 (EA/2011/0007).

7. estimated value of estates,  
In response to question 7, Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at:
- Section 1(1) (a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held.
  - The second duty at Section 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

In respect of question 7, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the above information.

Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of the Act, that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".

8. date(s) when the information was passed (or information that is about to be or likely to be passed) to the Government Legal Department (formerly Treasury Solicitor) or the Duchy of Lancaster or Cornwall **or any other 3rd party**, or, confirmation that this will not be happening and the reason why.  
See response provided on page 4.

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

<b>Name</b>	<b>DOD</b>	<b>Marital status</b>	<b>DOB</b>	<b>NOK known</b>	<b>Passed to Treasury</b>
Landon Stuart Perry	03/05/2019	Single	29/10/1937	No	Not to date