

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002726
Date 5 September 2018

Public Health Funerals

Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information for public health funerals from 01/07/2018 to date:

Name of the deceased

Date of birth

Date of death

Last residential address

Have the next of kin/ family members been traced?

Has the above information been passed to any 3rd party, if so who

Does your council work with any genealogist

In response to your above questions, please see table below providing you with information:

Question 1)	Question 2)	Question 3)	Question 4)	Question 5)	Question 6)	Question 7)
Name	DOB	DOD	Address	Known NOK	Referred	Genealogist
EAGLE Ronald	10/12/1945	28/03/2018		N	N	
WOOD Frank	15/05/1926	11/06/2018		N	N	
STACEY Lloyd	02/01/1992	10/07/2018		Y	N	

With reference to question 4), 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 31 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).

In this case the Tribunal accepted the risk attendant in disclosing details regarding vacant properties to the wider world.

With reference to question 7), the department that have provided the answers to the above questions, do not currently work with any genealogists.