



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 0415122
Date 29 April 2015

Unclaimed Estates

Request:

1. A list of all unclaimed estates supplied to the Bona Vacantia division during the financial years 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15

For each estate please provide about the deceased:

1. Name
2. Place of birth
3. Date of birth
4. Marital status
5. Date of death
6. Place of death
7. Date referred to Bona Vacantia

With reference to your above question, I am informing you that the information you requested is being withheld as the Council considers that Section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act (Law Enforcement) is applicable in this case, for the reasons outlined below.

In cases of intestacy referred to the Treasury Solicitor, the normal practice is for the Treasury Solicitor to establish the value of the estate and whether it is bona vacantia (ownerless goods). To do this they will take steps to secure the estate (for example, by freezing bank accounts) and make enquiries as to the location of title deeds to property and the possible existence of a will. To disclose information that would reveal details of the assets of an estate before such steps have been taken would provide an opportunity for criminal acts such as theft or fraud to be committed.

Given the sensitivity of the information requested and the risk that its disclosure could possibly aid criminal activities, I consider that it would not be in the public interest to release this information.

The Treasury Solicitor may be able to release to you information about persons who have died intestate and their estates, if the estate's assets have been secured. You may wish to contact them at:

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Freedom of Information Officer
Treasury Solicitor Department
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London
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foi@tsol.gsi.gov.uk

You might also find it helpful to visit their website at: www.bonavacantia.gov.uk