



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 051569
Date 19 May 2015

Deceased Persons

Request:

1. From May 2015 to any pending please provide details of any deceased persons you have dealt with who have no known next of kin (or you cannot find next of kin).
2. Date of Death and Date of Birth.
3. Last known address.
4. The date passed onto TSOL or The Duchy Solicitor (plus any pending).
5. The Value of estate if known (approximately).
6. Please email your response.

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