



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 0815106
Date 20 August 2015

Public Health Funerals

Request:

1. Has the Council conducted any 'Public Health Act Funerals since 01/03/15 to the Present (can you include up to the date you respond to my request)?

Yes

2. If the answer to this question is yes, can you disclose:
 - a) The full names of the deceased
 - b) The date of birth of the deceased
 - c) The date of death of the deceased
 - d) The last known address of the deceased
 - e) Whether the details of the deceased, have been/will be or are likely to be referred to the Government Legal Department (if you are not sure then can you just answer that field 'unsure, or unknown' or words to that effect).

I regret to inform you the information you requested in question 2 above 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.

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. You may wish to contact them at:

Freedom of Information Officer
Treasury Solicitor Department
1 Kemble Street
London
WC2B 4TS
foi@tsol.gsi.gov.uk

You might also find it helpful to visit their website at:

www.bonavacantia.gov.uk

Section 31- Law Enforcement

Section 31 is concerned with protecting a wide range of law enforcement interests and its application turns on whether disclosure would be likely to prejudice those interests.

Some interests that are protected by section 31 are drawn quite widely, for example: the administration of justice, the prevention or detection of crime and the operation of immigration controls. But section 31 also applies where the exercise by any public authority of certain specified functions would be prejudiced by disclosure. Those functions include: ascertaining whether a person is responsible for improper conduct, determining the cause of an accident and ascertaining a person's fitness to carry on a profession.

3. Have there been any similar FOI requests to this (within the time scale outlined in question 1)
Yes
4. Has the Council given this information away to any other individual or organisation outside the parameters of FOI (other than the Government legal department or internally) within the time scale outlined in question 1
No
5. Has the Council always disclosed details on Public Health Funerals? Or has the Council refused in the past but then changed its stance after an appeal/internal review? (In terms of time scale can you search as far back as you can without breaching the costs allocated for an FOI request, which does not require the requestor to pay fees).
No
6. If the Council has refused in similar requests to this in the past and then changed its approach to disclosure
We have not changed our decision to disclose information on these type of requests.
 - a) What exemption Clauses were used to block the request
 - b) On what basis did the Council change its approach to disclosure
 - c) If it changed its approach on the basis of an appeal, could you send me a copy of that appeal?