



Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are writing to request information regarding deceased individuals (with associated information), confirmed as having no known kith and kin, and deceased individuals not confirmed as having no known kith and kin, within your jurisdiction. We ideally require all the following information:- Information of all deceased individuals to date for the last three years, broken down into individual records of those deceased to include the following information:

Full name of the deceased

Date of birth of the deceased at the time of death

- Full residential addresses of the deceased

- Full address of the site and/or contact details of the site where the deceased passed away

- Date of death

- Of the deceased without any known kith and kin or you're in the process of establishing if this deceased has any kith and kin, did this deceased have any assets and/or properties

- Of the deceased without any known kith and kin, or you're in the process of establishing if this deceased has any kith and kin, what is the full address where the individual's cremation or the burial took place and the cost of the individual deceased's burial or cremation

- Of the deceased without any known kith and kin or you're in the process of establishing if this deceased has any kith and kin, specify what personal information of the deceased was passed to:

- Which tracing agent/s with their full contact details and/or

- The Government legal department and/or Treasury department/s and/or

- Which Probate firm/s with their full contact and/or

- Any other entity

- Of the deceased without any known kith and kin or you're in the process of establishing if this deceased has any kith and kin, what is the date when the deceased's personal information was passed to:

- Tracing agent/s and/or

- The Government legal department and/or Treasury department/s and/or

- Probate firm and/or

- Any other entity

- Of the deceased without any known kith and kin or you're in the process of establishing if this deceased has any kith and kin, what specific information of the deceased was shared with:

- Tracing agent/s and/or

- The Government legal department and/or Treasury department/s

- Probate firm/s and/or

- Any other entity

- Of the deceased without any known kith and kin and/or you're in the process of establishing if this deceased has any kith and kin, what is the cost of the cremation or the burial of the individual deceased

What is the council's department name and the council department's e-mail address and/or any other contact information, responsible for passing the individual deceased records to :

- Tracing agent/s and/or

- The Government legal department and/or Treasury department/s and/or

- Probate firm/s

Response

Please see attached Excel document

Under FOI the Authority has a right to refuse to release information if an exemption applies. In this case the exemption is Section 31(1)(a) of the FOI Act. Which states "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,"

It is our view that disclosure of the information in columns A, B, C (i.e. the name, date of birth, address) is likely to prejudice the prevention of crime. It is our view that disclosure of the information would enable someone to target empty properties. This is supported by decision notices FS50584670, FS50583220 and FS50586033.

This exemption is subject to a "public interest test". Our public interest argument is as follows:

Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure:

Disclosure may enable living relatives to identify themselves which could speed up the probate process and enable the council to reclaim money.

Public interest arguments in favour of maintaining the exemption:

Any information provided in responses to the questions could identify the deceased and their former home which could lead to theft or vandalism.

Balance of the public interest arguments:

There is an inherently strong public interest in avoiding likely prejudice to the prevention of crime and tackling issues that would arise as a result of individuals being identified would involve significant public expense. There is also a strong public interest in avoiding distress to the direct victims of crime related to empty properties including neighbours and the wider community. We are therefore of the view that the exemption should be maintained.