

596/2014

REQUEST

This is a request for information under the freedom of information act and I hope you can assist me. I appreciate you might not hold all of the information below, but would like to know as much as you can provide.

I would like to know details of anyone who has died with no known next of kin from 1/8/2014 to the day of your reply. If there are any new cases where the person died prior to 1/8/2014, but that were only dealt with after this date, please also include details.

Please also supply a list of any Public Health Act Funerals carried out from the above date (also known as Welfare or Environmental Health Act funerals) if this does not form part of your reply to the above. This should include funerals carried out by the council or on behalf of any third party.

Please include:

1. the deceased's full names
2. the date they died
3. the approximate value of their estate
4. their dates of birth or age at death
5. whether or not they were married, divorced, single, or widowed
6. the maiden surnames of married females or widows
7. their address at death
8. the date when a referral was made of this estate to the Treasury Solicitor or Duchy of Lancaster or Cornwall or any other 3rd party to research or administer and the name of the 3rd party concerned.
9. If a referral to the Treasury Solicitor or Duchy has not yet been made and you think it will be made soon could you advise me of this too.
10. If a case is still undecided or awaiting referral, please also advise of details.

RESPONSE

I acknowledge receipt of your email dated 14 November 2014.

I refer to your request for information in relation to persons dying with no known next- of-kin and would inform you that the Authority holds the information requested, but is unable to provide this information because it is exempt under section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act (Law Enforcement) and is therefore being withheld.

Section 31(1) states that 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

We are applying this exemption because the release of personal details of a deceased individual with no known relatives and no will may make the assets of that person vulnerable and disclosure of the information may lead to the commission of offences and cause loss to the unsecured estates.

The Authority has applied the public interest test and determined that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.