



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 003266
Date 15 February 2019

Funerals

Request:

Please could you kindly send me any information you may hold relating to 'public health act' or 'welfare' or 'contract' or 'paupers' funerals having taken place or due to take place, and/or persons who have died with no known next of kin since 1/12/18 to the day of your reply. Please include:

1. full names of deceased persons,
2. dates of death,
3. marital status,
4. maiden surnames of married or widowed females,
5. dates of birth or ages at death,
6. last known addresses,
7. estimated value of estates,
8. date(s) when the information was passed (or information that is about to be or likely to be passed) to the Government Legal Department (formerly Treasury Solicitor) or the Duchy of Lancaster or Cornwall or any other 3rd party, or, confirmation that this will not be happening and the reason why.

[In response to your request please find our response below:](#)

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE OF DEATH</u>	<u>AGED</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>ESTATE</u>	<u>NOK</u>	<u>Marital status</u>	<u>REFERRAL TO TREASURY</u>
TAHERZADE Nazmolook	18/11/2018	43	03/03/1975	unknown	Y	Married (maiden name Taherzade)	
TURNER Colin	13/11/2018	59	18/12/1958	unknown	N	Single	Referred to Treasury 7.1.19
BROXTON Peter	02/12/2018	64	10/05/1954	unknown	Y	unknown	
LOWDEN Norman	24/01/2018	66	26/03/1952	unknown	Y	Widower	
MORGAN Janet Ann	02/01/2019	61	25/02/1957	unknown	Y	Separated	
HYDE Brian David	07/11/2018	42	05/03/1976	unknown	Y	Single	

*In response to question 6) above, the Council will not be disclosing the requested information.

The Council is of the view that this would constitute information whose disclosure to the wider world would raise concerns around the prevention or detection of crime and that Section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI, The Act) is engaged.

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...”

In considering the public interest for and against disclosure in this case, the Council has considered the public interest in disclosing the last known address of the identified deceased people could aid the resolution of any estate-related queries.

Set against this however, the Council has also considered that disclosure to the wider world (which is how any disclosure made under the provisions of the Act must be judged) may cause harm such as fraud, identity theft, criminal acts and criminal trespass

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

and damage to vacant residential property especially when this information is put together with information that is already in the public domain.

In reaching this conclusion, the Council has taken account of guidance from the Information Commissioners Office and further considers that its approach is in accordance with the decisions reached by the Information Commissioners Office, published in decision notices FS50454267 regarding Westminster City Council – 4 December 2012 and also the decision in relation to Birmingham City Council FS50584670 – 14 October 2015.

In both cases the ICO accepted the arguments put forward by the public authorities in question regarding the application of Section 31 as detailed above.

The Council has also considered the case involving London Borough of Camden versus Mr Yiannis Voyias heard at the Information Tribunal on 22 January 2013 (EA/2011/0007).

In this case the Tribunal accepted the risk attendant in disclosing details regarding vacant properties to the wider world.