

CITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
COUNCIL

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 003320  
Date            5 February 2019

### ***Public Health Act, Welfare, Contract and Paupers 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 1/1/19 to the day of your reply. Please include:

1. full names of deceased persons,  
In response to question 1. above, please find attached information.
2. dates of death,  
In response to question 2. above, please find attached information.
3. marital status,  
In response to question 3. above, please find attached information. Please note that one response in this column is marked as "unknown". We have been able to respond to the others because the information is held in this instance, but we do not routinely know or keep this data as it is not necessary for our role to keep data about the person's marital status.
4. maiden surnames of married or widowed females,  
In respect of question 4. it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the above information.

Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of the Act, that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".

5. dates of birth or ages at death,  
In response to question 5. above, please find attached information.
6. last known addresses,  
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*

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*(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 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.

7. **estimated value of estates,**

In respect of question 7. it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the above information.

Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of the Act, that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".

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 question 8. above, please find attached information.](#)

Please could you kindly send me any information you may hold relating to persons who are/were known to the Council **via any of the following teams** and who have died with:

- **no known next of kin (defined as blood relatives) OR**
- **where you have been unable to engage with or locate any KNOWN next of kin,**

Please provide details of cases that have occurred or come to your attention since 1/1/19 to the day of your reply.

**The name of the team responsible varies but exists within all County Councils, London Boroughs, Unitary & Metropolitan District Councils.**

**Team names:**

- Deputyship
- Appointeeship
- Adult social care
- Client Finance Team
- Protection of Property
- Financial Assessment
- Other team name whereby Council official(s) were charged with handling the financial affairs of the (now deceased) person

Please provide as much of the following information as you can:

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.  
[Please see attached information which refers to Deputyship and Property.](#)

Cases are only referred to the Treasury if there is an estate and no known next of kin.

<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>
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	24/01/2019	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	
PRITCHARD John Edward	24/01/2019	81	23/05/1937	unknown	Y	Single	
HIGHFIELD David John	01/01/2019	55	07/05/1963	unknown	Y	Partner	
JOHNSON Keith Stanley	24/02/2019	68	26/03/1950	unknown	Y	Married	