

CITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
COUNCIL

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 000447  
Date            16 September 2016

### ***Public Health Funerals***

#### **Request:**

1. Has the Council conducted any public health funerals between 10/03/2016 - the present? (by present I mean the date of your response). Please include any pending funerals.

Yes

2. If the answer to question 1 is yes, please provide the following information for each of the deceased:

- a) Full name  
Please see table provided on page 4.

- b) Date of birth  
Please see table provided on page 4.

- c) Date of death  
Please see table provided on page 4.

- d) Date of funeral  
Please see table provided on page 4.

- e) Last known address  
In response to question e) 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 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.

- f) Whether the Council has located a next of kin?  
Please see table provided on page 4.
- g) Whether the Council has located a will?  
Please see table provided on page 4.
- h) Whether details of the estate have been/will be referred to the Government Legal Department?  
Please see table provided on page 4.
- i) Approximate value of estate if known  
Please see table provided on page 4.
- j) In each case, has the Council given the information away in another FOI request?  
Please see table provided on page 4.

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

- k) In each case, has the Council passed the information (outside the parameters of FOI) to a probate or genealogy firm? If so which ones and when?

[Please see table provided on page 4.](#)

<u>Question a)</u>	<u>Question b)</u>	<u>Question c)</u>	<u>Question d)</u>	<u>Question f)</u>	<u>Question g)</u>	<u>Question h)</u>	<u>Question i)</u>	<u>Question j)</u>	<u>Question k)</u>
HUGHES Geoffrey	16/01/1950	15/12/2015	22/03/2016	N	N	N	NK	y	N
HILL William Fredrick	10/11/1930	02/02/2016	17/03/2016	Y	N	N	NK	y	N
EDWARDS Graham	29/12/1944	01/02/2016	21/04/2016	Y	N	N	NK	y	N
INGHAM Alan	09/08/1951	10/02/2016	29/03/2016	Y	N	N	NK	y	N
DUNNE Patrick	03/12/1958	08/02/2016	13/04/2016	Y	N	N	NK	y	N
GEE Joseph	13/10/1942	06/03/2016	26/04/2016	Y	N	N	NK	y	N
GRIFFITHS Roger	30/05/1943	04/04/2016	16/05/2016	Y	N	N	NK	y	N
DEAKIN Leslie	20/08/1952	14/03/2016	09/06/2016	N	N	N	NK	N	N
WORRALL Maurice	13/09/1943	10/04/2016	09/06/2016	Y	N	N	NK	N	N
SKIDMORE Geoffrey	11/12/1938	27/04/2016	13/07/2016	Y	N	N	NK	N	N
COOPER John	17/09/1951	30/04/2016	13/07/2016	Y	N	N	NK	N	N
MORRIS Eric	17/04/1945	09/05/2016	23/06/2016	Y	N	N	NK	N	N
WHEELER Kathryn	25/04/1957	20/06/2016	14/07/2016	Y	N	N	NK	N	N
EVANS Phillip Simon	04/11/1972	11/01/15	20/07/2016	Y	N	N	NK	N	N
WORTON Diane	18/09/1960	20/06/2016	21/07/2016	Y	N	N	NK	N	N
HARTSHORNE Nicholas	28/01/1975	12/06/2016	02/08/2016	Y	N	N	NK	N	N
JONES David Lloyd	03/12/1941	12/07/2016	08/09/2016	N	N	N	NK	N	N
HAYWOOD Brenda	13/03/1945	29/06/2016	08/09/2016	N	Y	N	NK	N	N
KOYNE Patrick James	03/09/1944	23/08/2016	13/09/2016	Y	N	N	NK	N	N