

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000851
Date 3 February 2017

Public Health Funerals

Request:

1. Has the Council conducted any 'Public Health Act Funerals since 2/12/16 to the present (the day you respond to this request)?

Yes

2. If the answer to this question is yes, please disclose:

- a) The full names of the deceased

- b) The date of birth of the deceased

- c) The date of death of the deceased

In response to questions 2a), b) and c) above please see the table providing you with information below:

Name	Date of Birth	Date of Death
Norman Baker	8 February 1937	2 October 2016
Margaret Amy Hogan	15 August 1929	30 November 2016
Stuart Christopher Harrison	28 November 1947	13 August 2016
Robert Thickett	7 August 1939	20 November 2016

- d) The last known address of the deceased

In response to question d) 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.

Additionally, in coming to this decision a review of Decision Notices issued by the Information Commissioner's Office (see FS50586033; FS50584670 and FS50583220) in relation to the release of address information in respect of public funerals was taken into account and these all support the principle of withholding of such information under the exemption Section 31 (1) (a).

- e) Whether the details of the deceased, have been/will be or are likely to be referred to the Government Legal Department (if you are not sure then can you just answer that field 'unsure, or unknown' or words to that effect).

In respect question e) above, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the above information as any people with treasury referrals were referred by other financial institutions and not the local authority. 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".

3. Have there been any similar FOI requests as this within the time scale outlined in question 1?

No

4. Has the Council given this information away to any other individual or organisation outside the parameters of FOI (other than the Government legal department or internally) within the time scale outlined in question 1?

No