

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 002877  
Date            17 October 2018

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

#### **Request:**

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information for public health funerals from 01/08/2018 to date.

- 1) Name of the deceased
- 2) Date of birth
- 3) Date of death
- 4) Last residential address
- 5) Have the next of kin/ family members been traced?
- 6) Has the above information been passed to any 3rd party, if so who
- 7) Does you council work with any genealogist?

In response to your request please find our response below:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE OF DEATH</u>	<u>AGED</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>THIRD PARTY</u>	<u>NOK</u>
WOOD Frank	11/06/2018		15/05/1926	Bank to Refer to Treasury	N
STACEY Lloyd Robert	10/07/2018		02/01/1992	NO	Y
FORD Alan John	29/06/2018		21/03/1948	NO	Y
THORNEYCROFT David	13/08/2019		10/03/1963	NO	Y

With reference to question 4), 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 31 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.

With reference to question 7), the department that have provided the answers to the above questions, do not currently work with any genealogists.