



# Treasury Solicitor's Department

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Our reference: BVFOI/246/14 re Estate of Robert Gibson

## Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

You asked for the following information from the Treasury Solicitor's Department ("the Department"):

1. Any document showing the Deceased's place of birth.
2. The date and place of birth.
3. The name of the Deceased's mother and father.
4. The date the Deceased arrived in the United Kingdom.
5. Was the Deceased Naturalised and if so could you provide any documentation?
6. Any other details that you have on file that may indicate the parentage and place of birth of the Deceased.
7. Any information that you may have in regard to any siblings or other members of the Deceased's family.
8. Did the Deceased apply for a Passport?
9. Does the Home Office have a file on the Deceased?
10. Do you have any possible variations of the names of the Deceased?

Your request will be dealt with by the Bona Vacantia Division ("the Division") under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Division holds some of the information that you have requested.

You ask if the Home Office has a file on the deceased. It would be more appropriate if you address this question to the Home Office directly to: Home Office, Direct Communications Unit, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW10 4DF or their website at [public.enquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:public.enquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).

The Division holds information relating to the date and place of birth of the deceased. This information can be found on the death certificate of the deceased. The Certificate can be obtained from the local Registrar where the event took place or from the General Registrar Office (GRO), PO Box 2, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 2JD or by telephoning 0845 603 7788. Further details can be obtained from the GRO's website at <https://www.gov.uk/browse/births-deaths-marriages/register-offices>. The information is reasonably accessible to you by other means and is therefore exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the Act. This exemption confers absolute exemption from the requirement to provide information pursuant to section 1(1)(b) of the Act.

I have withheld certain information from the file about the deceased's status, as it is exempt from disclosure under section 41 of the Act as the Division considers that the information was received in confidence, and that to reveal the information would constitute an actionable breach of the duty of confidence.

In considering whether disclosure would be an actionable breach of confidence the Division has considered whether there is a public interest in disclosing the information that would outweigh the public interest in keeping the information confidential.

There is a strong public interest in keeping confidential information that has been disclosed in confidence, and in this case there is no specific reason in favour of disclosure of the information. Disclosure would not protect public safety, nor would it expose wrongdoing such as misfeasance, maladministration, negligence or other iniquity on the part of the Division. In this case the Division considers that the public interest in keeping the information confidential outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

