Government Legal Department

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Our reference: BVFOI/090/16 re George Desmond

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

You asked for the following information from the Government Legal Department ("the Department"):

I am emailing to enquire whether a claim has been made already against the above referenced estate.

Can you inform us as to who a claim should be made to.

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

The Division holds all the information that you have requested.

I have interpreted your request to mean that you require information as to whether a claim to the estate has been admitted or whether the Division is currently considering a claim to the estate.

The Division publishes a list of unclaimed estates which have been recently referred, but not yet administered, and historic cases which have not yet been claimed by entitled relatives.   You can find the list here;
https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/unclaimed-estates-list#the-list

The Treasury Solicitor will only advertise estates that appear to be solvent. Any estates where the Bona Vacantia division (BVD) no longer has an interest, for example, when a claim to an estate has been admitted, will be removed daily. Information on how to make a claim to a deceased person's estate can be found at
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/make-a-claim-to-a-deceased-persons-estate

Since the information as to whether a claim has been admitted and to whom a kin claim should be made is reasonably accessible to you by other means it 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.

The Division is currently considering a claim to the estate.