



# Government Legal Department

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Our reference: BVFOI/359/15 re Paula Barnby

## Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

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

Does the Government Legal Department hold a copy of the deceased's birth certificate? If so, could you confirm the exact place and date of birth and when and by who, the birth certificate was issued?

Do you hold any information that the deceased married a British soldier whose name was not Barnby?

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.

The Division holds a birth certificate in the name of Paula Wieber issued by Das Pfarramt der evangelischen Kirchen und Pfarrgemeinde, Köln on 15 May 1937 (The Rectory, the Protestant Churches and Parish, Cologne).

The Division holds information relating to the date and place of the birth of the deceased. This information can be found on our unclaimed estates list on our website [www.gov.uk/bonavacantia](http://www.gov.uk/bonavacantia). 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.

The Division holds handwritten personal letters to the deceased in an old form of German manuscript (Sütterlin and Kurrent). In order to ascertain the content of these letters specialist translations would be required. The cost of translating the letters would be approximately £1,300.00 + VAT. The Division is not obliged to comply with your request as the information is exempt from disclosure under section 12 of the Act. This is because the Division estimates that to comply with your request would cost considerably more than the appropriate limit (set at £600) for central government,

