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Our reference: BVFOI/355/11 re Olwen Phillipson

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

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

Can you confirm if the details of the baptism record provided show that either birth certificate you hold relates to the deceased?

Would you accept a claim from the adoptive family?

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.

The information on the adoption record does not show that either of the certificates the Division holds relate to the deceased.

As these certificates may relate to living individuals, the information they contain is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the Act. The information is exempt from disclosure because it constitutes the personal data of a living individual as defined in section 1(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998 and disclosure of the information would be in breach of the data protection principles set out in Schedule 1 of that Act. In particular, disclosure of the information would contravene the first data protection principle, which requires that personal data be processed fairly and lawfully.

The Division would not accept a claim from the adoptive family as it not an legal adoption for the purposes of inheritance.

