



Treasury Solicitor's Department

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Our reference: BVFOI/320/13 re Gerald White

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

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

My questions are:

- How has this Estate ended up on the Treasury's Unclaimed Estates list when people were aware of his death?
- Who notified the Treasury?
- Is this Estate solvent and claimable?

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 estate was referred to the Treasury Solicitor by an asset holder and the asset involved was collected by the Division in error. As the portion of the estate that was collected by the Treasury Solicitor is claimable and solvent the estate was advertised on our website.

I have withheld the information you requested about the identity of the referring individual or organisation. The Division considers that this information was received in confidence, and that to reveal the information would constitute an actionable breach of that duty. Accordingly the information is exempt from disclosure under section 41(1) of the Act.

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.

