



Treasury Solicitor's Department

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Our reference: BVFOI/026/14 re Arthur Robert Brazier

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

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

I would ask if you could confirm:

- whether you have information that there is a Will,
- the date of first publication of this entry on the BV list,
- what type of asset this entry refer 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.

You have asked whether we have information that there is a Will. The estate is advertised on the Bona Vacantia unclaimed estates list. The Division advertises estates to be claimed where there is no Will or blood relatives to claim the estate.

This estate was first advertised on the unclaimed estates list in January 2013.

You have asked what type of asset the entry refers to, I am withholding this information, as it is exempt from disclosure under section 31(1)(a) of the Act. Section 31(1)(a) provides that information is exempt from disclosure if that disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. We believe that disclosure of the requested information to any member of the public would, or would be likely to, help enable the commission of fraud or other criminal activity. In applying the exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosing the information.

There is a strong public interest in ensuring that the Division's activities are conducted in an open, transparent and honest way. However, disclosure of the exempt information could help enable the commission of fraud which would be likely to result in a loss to the public purse. There is a strong public interest in protecting the public purse and it is therefore considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption in section 31(1)(a) in this case outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

The information that the Division holds about this estate will be released to either a blood relative or someone who proves they have a prior entitlement to the estate in priority to the Crown, for instance an executor or beneficiary in a Will or someone who has been appointed by the Probate Registry to administer the estate and can produce a Grant of Letters of Administration.

