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Our reference: BVFOI/267/14 re Phyllis Anne Berezowski

## Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

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

Regarding the estate of Phyllis Anne BEREZOWSKI died 24/09/2003

We note that this estate is no longer on your list of unclaimed estates.

We believe that we represent an entitled relative in this matter and we would be very grateful if you could confirm the following:

Has a claim been accepted?

If so, what is the claimant's name and relationship to the deceased?

Please could you confirm who is carrying out the Administration of the estate.

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.

Information concerning whether a claim has been accepted can be found on the unclaimed estates list. 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.

The unclaimed estates list can be found here: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/unclaimed-estates-list">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/unclaimed-estates-list</a>. 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.

I have withheld information from the file regarding the claimant's name, relationship to the deceased and details of who administered the estate as it 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.

I have also withheld this information as it is exempt from disclosure under section 41 of the Act as the Division considers that the information was received in confidence, and that to reveal the information would constitute an actionable breach of the duty of confidence

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.