



Treasury Solicitor's Department

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Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

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

"A list of estates where TSol have applied for a Grant of Letters of Administration.

Please provide this information covering the period 1.1.2013 to 1.1.2014

Please don't include any estate that has

- * been administered without a Grant
- * claimed by family, with or without the uses of a 3rd party
- * where administration has not been completed.

This information is not available from any other source, including HM Courts and Tribunals, or the Bona Vacantia list of unclaimed estates."

Your request will be dealt with by the Bona Vacantia Division ("the Division") under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Division holds all of the information that you have requested.

You have asked for a list of estates where a grant has been applied for. 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, as it would give an indication as to the value of the estates.

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.

Information as to whether a Grant of Letters of Administration has been taken out on an estate is available from the Probate Registry. This information is therefore 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.

