



Treasury  
Solicitor's  
Department

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Our reference: BVFOI/170/14 re Paul Borney

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request**

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

Please supply the salient details of the Grant, including the net value of the estate, as Ipswich District Probate Registry has advised that it was never issued according to their computer records.

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.

Letters of Administration was granted to the Solicitor for the affairs of her Majesty's Treasury in the name of Paul Borney otherwise Paul Sands of Room 10, 41 Palace Court, Paddington, London W2 who died on 16th July 1999 on the 23rd August 2000.

I am however withholding information relating to the net value of the estate, 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 the public at large 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.