



# Treasury Solicitor's Department

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Our reference: BVFOI/364/14 re Paula Barnby

## Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

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

The extra information you give on this case mentions family letters on file. Can I have access to these letters and how do I proceed.

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.

I note that you requested access to letters held by the Division which detail family members. I have interpreted your request to mean that you require any information from the letters about the deceased's origins and/or extended family that will help you find entitled kin.

I am withholding this information 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.

Any information contained in the letters which the Division can release has already been published on the unclaimed estates list (which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/unclaimed-estates-list>).

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.

