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Our reference: BVFOI/232/14 re Robert Chatterton and Catharine Elizabeth Tweedale

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

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

1. BV 2025247/1 Robert Chatterton - died 3 June 2001: I have a copy of the death certificate which indicates a living informant who is stated to be the deceased's cousin. This being the case I am wondering why the case would be referred to TSoL, by whom and why the informant on the death certificate has not been contacted by yourselves. Is this case genuinely an 'unsolved' intestate case which is still solvent and correctly on the list? If this is the case I will happily make further enquiries but I do not wish to contact this family member in error.
2. BV 2022373/1 Catharine Elizabeth Tweedale - died 24 November 2001: I believe the deceased's spouse was alive at the time of her death and died a few weeks after her in 01 2002. This being the case wouldn't her estate have passed to her spouse and then if he died intestate it would be his estate shown on the BV list? I have made no enquiries at this time as to whether he died with a will or intestate. Please can you confirm this is a genuine solvent case and shed light on why her estate did not pass 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.

The estate of Robert Chatterton.

The informant on the death certificate is not an entitled relative.

When someone dies without leaving a will, only the spouse and those blood relatives who are direct descendants of one of the grandparents of the deceased are entitled to share in the estate in priority to the Crown.

The estate of Catharine Elizabeth Tweedale.

At the time of the deceased's death, she was a widow.