



Treasury
Solicitor's
Department

Bona Vacantia Division (BVD)
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Our reference: BVFOI/128/14 re Patricia Ann Shenton

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

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

Could you please confirm that the following case is still open and solvent

Reference BV2086452/1
Forename Patricia Ann
Surname Shenton
Date of Death 18/11/2007
Place of Death Crewe Cheshire
Marital Status Spinster
Date of Birth 15/03/1934
Place of Birth Nantwich Cheshire

If there is any further information as to the estate you could supply I would be grateful to receive it

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

I have interpreted your request for further information to mean that you require information as to the assets and value of the estate.

The Division holds all the information that you have requested.

The Division holds information regarding whether a case is claimable. The Division publishes a list of all solvent and unclaimed estates which is updated on a daily basis and be located at www.gov.uk/bonavacantia. The information is reasonably accessible to you by other means and is therefore exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the Act.

I am withholding the information pertaining to the assets and 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 any member of the public 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.

