



# Government Legal Department

Bona Vacantia Division (BVD)  
PO Box 70165  
London  
WC1A 9HG

T +44 (0)20 7210 4700  
F +44 (0)20 7210 3104

DX: 123240 KINGSWAY

[www.gov.uk/bonavacantia](http://www.gov.uk/bonavacantia)

Our reference: BVFOI/044/16 re Jean Pauline White

## Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

You asked for the following information from the Government Legal Department ("the Department"):

"if you would advise whether or not the estate of the late Jean Pauline White (BV21210628/1) is still available to be claimed by the rightful beneficiaries? It would be further appreciated if you would advise the value of the estate?"

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 have withheld the information as to whether the estate is claimable as it is exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the Act. This information is reasonably accessible to you by other means (see unclaimed estates list at: <http://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/unclaimed-estates-list>) The list is updated each working day and only contains estates which are claimable and solvent. This exemption confers absolute exemption from the requirement to provide information pursuant to section 1(1) (b) of the Act.

I am withholding information, the 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.