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www.gov.uk

Our reference: BVFOI/034/15 re Peter Allan Talbot

## Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

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

Please can you provide the recorded information held by the Treasury Solicitors Department regarding the estate of Peter Allan Talbot Deceased.

Please provide the recorded information about all correspondence, internal notes and any other documentation held by the Treasury Solicitors Department regarding this matter.

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 to mean that you require information in relation to an application for a discretionary grant from the residue of the estate. Discretionary grants are considered on completion of the administration of the estate and we will write to about this at the appropriate time.

The Division holds all the information that you have requested.

I am withholding the information as it contains details of the assets and value and value of the Estate and 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.

The Division does not hold any further information in relation to your request.

