



Government Legal Department

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Our reference: BVFOI/061/16 re Paula Barnby

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

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

In October 2014 I made a request to have access to letters to family letters held on file by the Division.

The FOI request was denied on an interpretation that I wanted **any information** held in the letters about the deceased’s origin and extended family that would help me to find extended kin. The request was denied because it might constitute personal data of **living** individuals. I was also informed that this information is **reasonably accessible** to me by other means.

I would like another FOI request made for only the names and addresses of the kin who had received the letters.

I do not wish to see inside the letters.

It is entirely possible that some of these persons may be deceased by now. Who knows. We may never know.

It is over 17 years since the deceased passed away and the case remains unsolved on your list. It would seem that this information has not been reasonably accessed by other means by anybody to date.

Also, would it be possible to clarify the place named SASK on your Division notes on the unclaimed estates list.

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.

You have requested clarification of the place named Sask on the unclaimed estates list. The unclaimed estates list has been updated in this respect and you can find this information on the list here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/unclaimed-estates-list>. This 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.

You have requested the names and addresses of the kin who have received the letters. The letters were received by the deceased.

