



Government
Legal Department

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Our reference: BVFOI/158/15 re Grace Bessie Howell

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

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

Can you please confirm which firm is dealing with the estate of the late Grace Bessie Howell, formerly on the BV list.

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 regarding who is administering the estate.

The Division holds all the information that you have requested.

I have withheld certain information from the file who is administering the estate as it is exempt from disclosure under section 41 of the Act as the Division considers that the information was received in confidence, and that to reveal the information would constitute an actionable breach of the duty of confidence

In considering whether disclosure would be an actionable breach of confidence the Division has considered whether there is a public interest in disclosing the information that would outweigh the public interest in keeping the information confidential.

There is a strong public interest in keeping confidential information that has been disclosed in confidence, and in this case there is no specific reason in favour of disclosure of the information. Disclosure would not protect public safety, nor would it expose wrongdoing such as misfeasance, maladministration, negligence or other iniquity on the part of the Division. In this case the Division considers that the public interest in keeping the information confidential outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

