



Treasury  
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Our reference: BVFOI/378/14 re FOLLOW UP

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request**

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

Could you please, at least confirm whether the information, told to the successful claimant, about the estate value was correct and whether intestate estates before 2000 had to be of a minimum value of 5000 pounds to have been included in the Bona Vacantia 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.

I am withholding this information, estate value 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.

There have been numerous advertising policies and practices for advertising estates. However, since 2010 all claimable estates have been included on the unclaimed list.

