



Our reference: BVFOI/080/16 re Leonard Dunnett

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

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

I request that I be provided with a copy of the claim that [name of firm of genealogists redacted] made to Bona Vacantia on my behalf.

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.

The documents if identity you provided to the firm of genealogists in support of your claim are readily available to you. The 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.

I have withheld certain information from the file, a copy of the kin claim submitted to the Division by the firm of genealogists, 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.