



Our reference: BVFOI/139 16 re Douglas Platt

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

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

Please can you tell me whether a claim was made against the estate for cost of disposal of the remains of Douglas Platt? Can you give me the detail of how much it was and who made the claim ? Can you tell me where the deceased was living at the time, and where his remains are now if you have that information?

Can you also give me details of any other claims made against this estate?

Your request will be dealt with by the Bona Vacantia Division ("the Division") under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Division holds some of the information that you have requested.

The Division holds information relating to where the deceased was living at the time of his death. This information can be found on the death certificate of the deceased. Certificates can be obtained from the local Registrar where the event took place or from the General Registrar Office (GRO), PO Box 2, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 2JD or by telephoning 0845 603 7788. Further details can be obtained from the GRO's website at <https://www.gov.uk/browse/births-deaths-marriages/register-offices>. 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 interpreted the remainder of your request to mean that you require the details of claims made against the estate from creditors

I have withheld certain information from the file, claims made against 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.

Information about the estate, including details of assets and liabilities will only be released to a successful kin claimant or the administrator of the estate.