



Government Legal Department

Bona Vacantia Division (BVD)
PO Box 70165
London
WC1A 9HG

T +44 (0)20 7210 4700
F +44 (0)20 7210 3104

DX: 123240 KINGSWAY

www.gov.uk/bonavacantia

Our reference: BVFOI/390/15 re Susan Forster

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

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

Would it be possible for you to confirm the deceased’s date of birth as established upon admittance of the recent claim on the estate?

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 now requested clarification of our previous response. The information held on the unclaimed estates list, in particular the date of birth of the deceased was that shown on the death certificate. We hold an alternative date of birth of the deceased. However, the alternative date of birth together with the information received from the firm of genealogists who satisfied us that their client is a blood relative the of the deceased with a prior entitlement to the estate ahead of the Crown, was received in confidence.

The above information held on file is withheld 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.

