



Government Legal Department

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Our reference: BVFOI/248/16 re Alan Douglas

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

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

Details that can help locate the deceased's place of birth and family.

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.

This information held has been 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.

According to the death certificate held by the Division the deceased was born about 1920. No place of birth is recorded. We hold an alternative date of birth for the deceased of 02/07/1919. This information was provided by DHSS who also informed the Division that the deceased was single. The unclaimed list will shortly be updated with this information.

