



Government Legal Department

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Our reference: BVFOI/327/15 re Eric Ronald Wilsher

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

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

I and other members of my family would like to build a more complete picture of Eric Ronald Wilsher.

I would be grateful for any documents or notes on your files that may be shared under the Freedom of Information Act which provide information concerning Eric Ronald Wilsher’s life history.

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 the date and place of the birth, marriage and death of Eric Ronald Wilsher, including his wife’s details and date of death and his parents’ details.

Eric Ronald Wilsher died on 10.12.1994 in Westminster. He was born on 15.10.1919 in Hitchin and married on 3.8.1970 in Westminster. His wife died on 22.5.1987 in Camden.

This information can be found on the birth, marriage and death certificates of the deceased and his wife. 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 withheld certain information from the file regarding Mr. Wilsher’s relationship with a third party as it is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the Act. The information is exempt from disclosure because it constitutes the personal data of a living individual as defined in section 1(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998 and disclosure of the information would be in breach of the data protection principles set out in Schedule 1 of that Act. In particular, disclosure of the information would contravene the first data protection principle, which requires that personal data be processed fairly and lawfully.

I have also withheld this information and information regarding his wife’s family 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.