



Government Legal Department

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Our reference: BVFOI/082/16 re James Carnegie Stride

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

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

Please confirm the value of the estate of James Carnegie Stride who died intestate on the 9th July 1990

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 Division holds information concerning the exact value of the estate. I am withholding this information as it is exempt from disclosure under section 31(1)(a) of the Act. Section 31(1)(a) provides that information is exempt from disclosure if that disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. We believe that disclosure of the requested information to any member of the public would, or would be likely to, help enable the commission of fraud or other criminal activity. In applying the exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosing the information.

There is a strong public interest in ensuring that the Division’s activities are conducted in an open, transparent and honest way. However, disclosure of the exempt information could help enable the commission of fraud which would be likely to result in a loss to the public purse. There is a strong public interest in protecting the public purse and it is therefore considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption in section 31(1)(a) in this case outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

The Division also holds information concerning the approximate value of the estate. This information is detailed in the advertisement issued in the Daily Echo on 21 December 1990. Copies of this paper can be obtained from Southern Daily Echo, Newspaper House, Test Lane, Redbridge, Southampton, SO16 9JX or from their website <http://www.dailyecho.co.uk/archive/>. 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.