



Our reference: BVFOI/279/15 re John George Watt

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

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

Confirm where the DOB given on the BV list for this individual has been sourced & what information regarding this individual's birth you hold on file?

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

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

The Division holds information relating to the date and place of the birth of the deceased. 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.

The Division holds a letter from Barnardo's which contains information about the deceased. Further information can be obtained by writing to Barnardo's, Tanners Lane, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex IG6 1QG. Further details can be obtained from Barnardo's website at www.barnardos.org.uk. 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.

The Division holds a letter from Oxfordshire County Council. In their letter they inform us that 'at the time the deceased was found abandoned and later sent to Barnardo's (1929-1930) there were important changes in the administration of relief to the poor. The quote from their catalogue:

The Public Assistance Committee was a statutory committee appointed to administer the Poor Law and Registration functions transferred from the Board of Guardians to the County Council under Parts I and II of the Local Government Act, 1929. Under the Oxfordshire Poor Law Scheme, the county was divided into seven areas within each of which a Guardians Committee was appointed to consider application and administer poor relief. Existing Poor Law institutions and their staff were transferred into the new system.

With this in mind I check our indexes and catalogues and found the following:

PLU6/G/1A1/35	Witney Poor Law Union Board of Guardians Minute Book Jan 1929-Sep 1931
CC1/20/A1/1	Public Assistance Committee Minutes Dec 1929-Sep 1931
CC1/20/A11/1	Witney Guardians Committee Minutes Apr 1930-Mar 1931

As John became chargeable under the Poor Law on 29/6/29' it is possible that there is mention of this in the first-mentioned Minute Book. Likewise, as John 'was admitted to Barnardo's care on 28th October 1930 on payment by the Oxfordshire County Council' it is possible that there is mention of this in one or both of the other two Minute Books mentioned above.'

Further information can be obtained from The Archivist, Oxfordshire Record Office, Social and Community Services, St Luke's Church, Temple Road, Cowley, Oxford, OX4 2HT and www.oxfordshire.gov.uk.