



# Government Legal Department

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Our reference: BVFOI/038/17 re George William Robertson

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request**

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

Please confirm the correct date of birth and date of death for George William Robertson.

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 death certificate of George William Robertson states the date of death as 2 November 1997 in Haltwhistle, Northumberland. A date of birth can be found on this document. 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 [www.direct.gov.uk/gro](http://www.direct.gov.uk/gro). 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 copies of two birth certificates with a different dates and places of birth from that shown on the death certificate and has no information to confirm that either document relates to the deceased. As this information may relate to a living person, 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.

Additional information provided by Haltwhistle War Memorial Hospital and Northumberland County Council gives the deceased's date of birth as 22 April 1930. As such, the Division is unable to confirm the correct date of birth for the deceased.