



Our reference: BVFOI/082/17 re Harry Hall

### Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

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

"I would like to know whether the Government Legal Department holds a copy of Henry Hall's birth certificate, and if so, whether you can provide me with the location of Henry's birth, his name and date of birth shown on the certificate (if it differs to the information already provided by the GLD) and the name of Henry's parents.

If the GLD does not hold the birth certificate, would you be able to tell me where the place and date of birth provided (Chorlton, 17th December 1903) comes from?

I would also appreciate any further information about the deceased if the GLD is able to provide it. I am looking for details such as his parents' names, any former addresses in the UK and his religion."

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.

We hold a copy of the deceased's birth certificate. The birth is registered in the name of Harry Brook. This information has now been updated on our records.

The Division holds information relating to the parents of the deceased. This information can be found on the birth 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 Division holds information relating to the previous addresses of the deceased. His last address can be found on the death certificate. 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 also holds a further address for the deceased. I have withheld this information from the file 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.

The Division holds no further information relating to the remainder of your request.