



Government Legal Department

Bona Vacantia Division (BVD)
PO Box 70165
London
WC1A 9HG

T +44 (0)20 7210 4700
F +44 (0)20 7210 3104

DX: 123240 KINGSWAY

www.gov.uk/bonavacantia

Our reference: BVFOI/100/17 re Thomas Mulligan

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 your division holds any additional information about, or the birth certificate of, the decedent. In particular, details about where he was born (as this information is not available), his birth name (Thomas MULLIGAN or Jimmy SMALL) and anything else regarding his family.

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 does not hold a copy of the birth certificate for the deceased. Information held on file provided by Islington Council states that the deceased may have been born in Ireland. The Division holds no information to confirm the birth name of the deceased. Other information held on file provided by the Benefits Agency is an unverified alternative date of birth of 12 December 1932, place of birth not known. Our website will shortly be updated to reflect this information.

I have withheld certain information from the file relating to family information and the name of Jimmy Small 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.