



Our reference: BVFOI/425/16 re Irene Sparkes

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

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

"A note on the spreadsheet says "The Division holds information on file that suggests that the deceased was a widow of Robert Sparkes"

Please could you advise me as to the nature and content of that information and whether you have any other information about him"

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

I have interpreted the last part of your request to mean that you require any genealogical information held on the Division's file for Robert Sparkes.

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

The Bona Vacantia Division takes steps to ensure that the list remains as accurate as reasonably possible but, unfortunately, errors do occur. It appears that the information you refer to was added to the unclaimed list in error and steps are being taken to remove it as soon as possible. I am sorry for any inconvenience caused.

I have withheld certain information from the file, the nature and content of the information, 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 in relation to your request.