



Government Legal Department

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Our reference: BVFOI/046/17 re Herta Eichenberg

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

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

"can you please verify from its source records that the deceased's place of birth as given in the unclaimed list of estates is indeed Kessel, Germany? and not Kassel? The reason is that there are several possible places, but first we wish to ascertain if there is a spelling mistake in the entry on the BV list. We would also welcome any further details about the source, or any additional information you can provide."

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 information that we hold about the deceased's origins and/or extended family that will help you find entitled kin.

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

Information regarding the place of birth originates from 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 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 also holds information regarding the place of birth from another source however the Division considers that the information was received in confidence, and that to reveal the information would constitute an actionable breach of that duty. Accordingly the information is exempt from disclosure under section 41(1) of the Act.

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.