



Our reference: BVFOI/108/17 re Christine Grace Sadler

### Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

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

The name of Christine Grace Sadler appears on your website but there is no birth or death certificate in existence in support.

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

I have interpreted your request to mean that you asking if we hold a death and/or birth certificate for the deceased.

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

The Division holds a copy of a death certificate in the name of Christine Grace Sadler. The event took place on 10 April 2010 in Bedford, Bedfordshire. 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 holds copies of birth certificates with different names, dates and places of birth from that shown on the death certificate and has no information to confirm that they relate to the deceased. As this information may relate to living persons, 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.

I have withheld certain information from the file regarding family of the deceased 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.