



Treasury Solicitor's Department

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Our reference: BVFOI/075/14 re Winifred Maud Didsbury

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

You asked for the following information from the Treasury Solicitor's Department ("the Department"):

I am writing to find out if the file for the estate late Winifred Maud DIDSBURY has been removed from your list of records and sent to a genealogist for further research as I have been contacted by this company for establishment as a possible heir.

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 require I have interpreted your request to mean that you require 1) has the Division admitted a claim to the estate of Winifred Maud Didsbury and 2) who is the appointed administrator in this estate.

The Division holds all the information that you have requested.

The Division publishes a list of unclaimed estates which have been recently referred, but not yet administered, and historic cases which have not yet been claimed by entitled relatives. You can find the list here; <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/unclaimed-estates-list#the-list>

Any estates where the Bona Vacantia division (BVD) no longer has an interest, for example, when a claim to an estate has been admitted, will be removed daily.

Since 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.

I have withheld certain information regarding the administrator of the estate 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.