



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: FOI794291407**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Deceased individuals confirmed as having no known next of kin.

You have requested the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we request updated, newly created, or amended information relating to deceased individuals within your jurisdiction who were confirmed as having no known next of kin, as well as those whose next-of-kin status was not confirmed, for the period from 2025 up to the date this request is processed (rather than the date on which it is logged).

This request does not seek information identical to that previously requested or you may have disclosed, but is limited to information that has been created, revised, or otherwise not held at the time of the authority's most recent response to earlier FOI requests on this subject.

We recognise that such records may change over time as additional information becomes available, and we therefore submit this request in accordance with Section 14(2) of the Act.

We ideally require the following information broken down into individual records of those deceased to include:

- **The full name of the deceased.**
- **The date of birth of the deceased.**
- **The last known residential address of the deceased.**
- **The full address and/or contact details of the location where the deceased passed away.**
- **The date of death.**

For deceased individuals confirmed as having no known next of kin, or where enquiries are

ongoing to establish next-of-kin status, please also provide:

- Whether the deceased was known to have held any assets and/or property at the time of death.
- The name, full address and contact details of the crematorium or burial site where the deceased was cremated or buried.
- The full address at which the cremation or burial took place and the associated cost of the burial or cremation.
- Details of any personal information relating to the deceased that was disclosed (including the date of disclosure) to:
 - o Any tracing agent(s) (including full contact details);
 - o The Government Legal Department and/or Treasury department(s);
 - o Any probate firm(s) (including full contact details);
 - o Any other organisation or entity (including full contact details)
- The total cost incurred for the cremation or burial of the deceased.

Regarding the disclosure of information associated with deceased individuals and their next of kin, the Council considers that Section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is engaged. As such, the Council will not be releasing the requested details.

The Council is of the view that releasing identifying information connected to deceased individuals or their next of kin would amount to the disclosure of information which, in the public domain, could give rise to concerns around law enforcement and public safety.

In assessing the public interest test, the Council has considered the benefits of transparency and accountability in demonstrating how decisions are made and how public resources are used. However, the Council must also recognise that any disclosure under the Act is a disclosure to the world at large, without restriction on use or wider distribution.

The Council is therefore concerned about the potential risk that releasing this level of information relating to deceased individuals may expose those individuals to increased criminal activity. Disclosing this information would heighten the visibility of potential targets to motivated offenders and increase the likelihood of crime, resulting in both emotional and financial harm to surviving family members.

Given these risks, the Council concludes that the public interest in safeguarding individuals, preventing crime, and protecting the privacy of bereaved families outweighs any public interest in disclosure at this time. Accordingly, the Council judges that withholding this information is necessary to avoid prejudice to the prevention of crime and to protect the welfare of both individuals.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane,

Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance