

Freedom of Information Request – Response – 27734

Following recent correspondence with East Suffolk Council (Ref: FOI862204657), we were advised that adult social care and client welfare records for residents in Felixstowe fall under the remit of Suffolk County Council.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), I hereby request information held by Suffolk County Council concerning the following deceased resident:

Full Name: XXXXXX

Date of Death: XXXXXX

Place of Death: XXXXXX

Bona Vacantia Reference: XXXXXX

SPECIFIC INFORMATION REQUESTED:

- 1. Adult Social Care & Client Files: Summary details of any adult social care file, client assessment, residential care record, or welfare file (excluding sensitive medical data of living third parties) showing emergency contacts, next-of-kin details, stated family history, or birthplace recorded upon assessment/admission.*
- 2. Stated Birthplace & Biographical Records: Any recorded information in council files stating the deceased's exact date of birth, village/town/district/oblast and country of birth, alien registration details, naturalisation papers, passport details, or family names.*
- 3. Property Search & Inventory Logs: Non-financial inventory logs or property search notes created during searches of the deceased's residence (such as identity cards, letters, parish certificates, photographs, or family details).*

Suffolk County Council (SCC) is refusing access to any information that may be held within the scope of parts 1, 2 and 3 under s.40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Whilst the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 do not apply to information relating solely to deceased persons, this does not automatically mean that information concerning a deceased individual can be disclosed under FOIA.

The records described in your request relate to social care provision, welfare matters and family circumstances. Information of this nature is inherently private and is provided to SCC in circumstances where there is a strong expectation of confidentiality. Any records that may be held are likely to contain information about living relatives, next of kin, carers, emergency contacts, professionals and other third parties connected with the deceased individual. Such individuals would reasonably expect that their personal information and their relationship with the deceased would remain confidential and would not be disclosed into the public domain. As disclosure under FOIA is disclosure to the world at large, the Council considers that disclosure would be unfair to those living individuals and would contravene the data protection principles.

Having considered the request, SCC is satisfied that disclosure of any information falling within the scope of parts 1, 2 and 3 would disclose personal data relating to identifiable living individuals. We consider that disclosure would be unfair and would contravene the data protection principles. Accordingly, the information is exempt from disclosure under

section 40(2) of FOIA. Information exempt under section 40(2) is not subject to the public interest test.

4. Public Health Funeral / Section 46 Records: Any record, report, or log relating to public health funeral, welfare burial, or cremation arrangements carried out under Section 46 of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 for the deceased.

We are writing to advise you that, following a search of our paper and electronic records, it has been established that the information you requested is not held by Suffolk County Council.

If you have not already done so, then you may wish to write to the Borough and District Councils of Suffolk:

We are writing to advise you that, following a search of our paper and electronic records, it has been established that the information you requested is not held by Suffolk County Council.

If you have not already done so, then you may wish to write to the Borough and District Councils of Suffolk:

- Babergh Mid Suffolk District Council

[Freedom of Information - Babergh District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://babergh.gov.uk)

- East Suffolk

[FOI and EIR making a request | East Suffolk Council](http://east.suffolk.gov.uk)

- West Suffolk

[Freedom of information](http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk)

- Ipswich Borough Council

[Freedom Of Information \(FOI\) | ipswich.gov.uk](http://www.ipswich.gov.uk)

PURPOSE OF REQUEST:

This information is requested for legal genealogy and estate administration purposes to establish lawful heirship for unclaimed estates administered under the Treasury Solicitor's Bona Vacantia rules.

Please note that Data Protection Act 2018 / UK GDPR principles apply only to living individuals (Recital 27). Information concerning deceased persons is accessible under FOIA.