

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: UHB 20-160**

11 March 2020

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

**Request:**

Please could you kindly send me any information you may hold relating persons who have died with no known next of kin\* (\*defined as blood relatives, this would include patients who have listed next of kin but where such persons are friends or non-blood relatives) since 1/2/20 to the day of your reply, or as close as possible to this date. Please include:

1. full names of deceased persons,
2. dates of death,
3. marital status,
4. maiden surnames of married or widowed females,
5. dates of birth or ages at death,
6. last known addresses,
7. estimated value of estates, if known.

**Response:**

University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust considers this information is exempt from disclosure under section 41(1)(a)(b), Information provided in confidence.

This information about the deceased individuals does not require a signed confidentiality agreement; it merely requires information to have 'the quality of confidence' and be provided under an obligation on confidence. All deceased individuals provided their personal information whilst being alive and expected that it would be treated confidentially therefore the Trust retains the duty of confidentiality after death. We therefore believe any identifying material is absolutely exempt from disclosure.

The Information Commissioner's Office has helpful guidance on disclosures exempt due to reasons of confidentiality available here: <https://ico.org.uk/media/for->

[organisations/documents/1432163/information-provided-in-confidence-section-41.pdf](https://www.bonavacantialist.co.uk/?gclid=EAlaIQobChMluyvHQiOGF6AIVS7TtCh3GMwJqEAAYASAAEgKmd_D_BwE)

In addition to the above exemption the Trust is applying section 31(1)(a), as information on addresses of potentially empty houses would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime for identity fraud, theft of physical assets from a deceased's estate and criminal trespass.

However, and in order to help you with your request, information on unclaimed estates for deceased persons in England & Wales is available in the public domain, please see the following link of the Bona Vacantia list for all unclaimed estates:

[https://www.bonavacantialist.co.uk/?gclid=EAlaIQobChMluyvHQiOGF6AIVS7TtCh3GMwJqEAAYASAAEgKmd\\_D\\_BwE](https://www.bonavacantialist.co.uk/?gclid=EAlaIQobChMluyvHQiOGF6AIVS7TtCh3GMwJqEAAYASAAEgKmd_D_BwE)

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Director of Corporate Governance  
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust  
Trust Headquarters  
Marlborough Street  
Bristol  
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

### Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

**FOI Team**  
**UH Bristol NHS Foundation Trust**