

Ref: FOI/CAD/ID 3462

Please reply to:
FOI Administrator
Trust Management
Service Centre
Maidstone Hospital
Hermitage Lane
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 9QQ
Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net

05 August 2016

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to Public health funerals.

1. *Does the trust refer deceased's estates to the Government Legal Department (GLD), QLTR, NUHU, Duchy of Cornwall or Duchy of Lancaster (Farrer & Co), and what does this information entail?*
2. *Who refers this information? (Please provide a name, contact address & telephone number / email address)*
3. *Within the last 6 months, of the cases where details have been referred to the Government Legal Department (GLD), QLTR, NUHU, Duchy of Cornwall or Duchy of Lancaster (Farrer & Co), please provide the following details:*
 - *Name of the deceased*
 - *Maiden name (if applicable)*
 - *Date of birth*
 - *Place of birth*
 - *Date of death*
 - *Place of death*
 - *Last known address*
 - *Marital status of the deceased*
 - *If a widow or widower, the name and date of death of spouse*
4. *Does the trust attempt to search for family members of the deceased?*
5. *How long does the trust spend searching for this information?*

1. The Trust complete the BV1a from the GLD

2. Vanessa Davis-Smith, Bereavement Lead,
Email: vanessa.davis-smith@nhs.net

3. The Trust will not provide the information requested in Q3 as this may provide sufficient information to allow for the patient to be identified.

You will also appreciate that patient identifiable information is, by its very nature, owed a duty of confidence, the disclosure of which would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that or any other person. Section 41 (FOI) provides an absolute exemption for information meeting this definition. Whilst health records relating to deceased people do not carry a common law duty of confidentiality, it is Department of Health and General Medical Council policy that records relating to deceased people should be treated with the same level of confidentiality as those relating to living people. Access to the health records of a deceased person is governed by the Access to Health Records Act 1990.

4. Yes

5. The Trust use a specialist company so timings would depend on their investigations