

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 9440

**Please reply to:**  
FOI Administrator  
Trust Management  
Maidstone Hospital  
Hermitage Lane  
Maidstone, Kent  
ME16 9QQ  
Email: [mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net](mailto:mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net)  
[www.mtw.nhs.uk](http://www.mtw.nhs.uk)

24 October 2024

## **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 persons who have died with no known blood relative next of kin.

*You asked: All questions are shown as received by the Trust.  
Please could you kindly send me any information you may hold relating to 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 1/8/2024 to the day of your reply (or as close as possible).*

*I confirm that this is a new request for new data only.*

*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,*
- 8. dates when the information was passed (or information that is about to be or likely to be passed) to any third party, if so to whom, or confirmation that this will not be happening and the reason why.*

*If your authority holds this information on your website, please confirm whether or not your website information is up to date and provide a link to this. If it is not please provide full details of any unpublished cases, as per the questions above.*

Trust response:

The Trust will not provide the information requested as this provides 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.