

Dear

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request concerning contacted the local council or coroner for when a patient has died within the care of the Trust*, and was in need of a public health funeral.

The Trust can provide the following information:

Note: In regards to FOI Request- the Trust does not release names of members of staff without their permission except at Director or Associate levels.

Has the Trust*, or the employees within the Trust*, contacted the local council or coroner for when a patient has died within the care of the Trust*, and was in need of a public health funeral?

Yes

Has the Trust*, or the employees within the Trust*, contacted the local council or coroner for when a patient has died within the care of the Trust*, and there were no known next of kin to provide a funeral?

Yes

What is the name of the person(s) who refers this information to the council or coroner? (Include name, department, address, and email address)

Bereavement officer /mortuary officer – which comes under the directorate of nursing- Chief Nurse & Director of Governance- Sheila Adam - Sheila.Adam@homerton.nhs.uk

What is the name and address of the solicitor used by the Trust* after a patient has died? Does this solicitor have a contract with the Trust*? **N/A**

Does the Trust*, or the employees within the Trust*, contact an external company to trace the next of kin of the patient who has died within the care of the Trust*? What is the name of the company or firm who identifies/traces the next of kin? **N/A**

If this is done internally, what is the name and address details of the internal staff & department who deals with this? (Include name, department, address, and email address)

Bereavement officer/mortuary officer

Under what circumstances has the Trust*, or employees within the Trust* contacted the Treasury Solicitor, Bona Vacantia Duchy of Cornwall, Duchy of Lancaster, QLTR, Ultimus Haeres, Farrer & Co. What is the name of the person(s) who refers information to the Treasury Solicitor, Bona Vacantia Duchy of Cornwall, Duchy of Lancaster, Ultimus Haeres, QLTR and/or Farrer & Co? (Include name, department, address, and email address)

The Trust will only contact Treasury Solicitors if a patient has an estate of £500 or more, died without a will and without known entitled blood relatives.

Referrals are made via the Patient Property Office which comes under the directorate of Finance- Jo Farrar- Director of Finance- Jo.Farrar@homerton.nhs.uk

When there is no known next of kin or family members present, who is responsible for providing the funeral? (Include name, department, address, and email address)

Hospital or council

Has the Trust*, or hospitals within the trust ever been listed as an informant on <http://www.bonavacantia.gov.uk/output/advertised-estates.aspx> under the heading "Click here for the list of new and historic unclaimed estates"

No

What is the name of the person(s) who sent this information to the Bona Vacantia? (Include name, department, address, and email address)

Referrals are made via the Patient Property Office which comes under the directorate of Finance- Jo Farrar- Director of Finance- Jo.Farrar@homerton.nhs.uk

How many deaths, with no known next of kin have occurred within the Trust* since January 2013

Only one so far this year

How many deaths, or information about the death have been referred to the Treasury Solicitor, B bona Vacantia Duchy of Cornwall, Duchy of Lancaster, Ultimus Haeres, QLTR and/or Farrer & Co?

The Trust has referred two deaths to them in the last two years. One in April 2013 and one in November 2012

Of the deaths, where there have been no known next of kin or been referred to: Treasury Solicitor, Bona Vacantia Duchy of Cornwall, Duchy of Lancaster, Ultimus Haeres, QLTR and/or Farrer & Co; please provide the name of the deceased, date of death, last known address and whether the next of kin have been traced.

The Trust is unable to provide this information as it is intended for future publication to the Treasury Solicitor and as such under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is exempt.

If you have any queries about this response please contact the information governance manager at foi@homerton.nhs.uk , in the first instance. If, following that, you still have any concerns, you may contact the Information Commissioner either by letter, FOI/EIR

Complaints resolution, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SM9 5AF, or by email www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk to take them further.

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Yours sincerely

James Cook
Information Governance Administrator

Matthew Hall
Information Governance Manager (Deputy Caldicott Guardian)