



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI591499398

Thank you for your request for information relating to Probate Research Firm.

You have requested the following information:

I am seeking information regarding the use of Probate Researchers or Probate Research Firms (often referred to as 'heir hunters') by the council. Specifically, I would like to request the following information (in the following, you refers to the council / authority for whom you work):

- 1. Have you used a Probate Researcher or Probate Research Firm (commonly known as 'heir hunters') in any capacity in the last 12 months?**
- 2. Do you have a formal arrangement or contract in place with a Probate Research firm?**
- 3. Have you ever used a Probate Researcher or Probate Research Firm (commonly known as 'heir hunters') in any capacity? This includes but is not limited to engaging their services to trace potential heirs or beneficiaries of deceased estates.**

In response to your request, we confirm that we do not hold this information and are informing you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. Our Legal team have made enquiries with all service areas who potentially may have used Probate Research Firms and they have all confirmed that they have not used Probate Research Firms within the past 12 months.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication](#)

[Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance