

Nicola Hesketh  
Project and Information Co Ordinator

**Our Ref: FOI4143/NH/02**  
**Please ask for: Nicola Hesketh**  
**Direct dial: 01827 709 587**  
**E-mail: FOImailbox@tamworth.gov.uk**

[name redacted]  
LB & Co Limited  
Linton House  
Pool in Wharfedale  
Leeds  
LS211EY

18<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Dear [name redacted]

### **Freedom of Information – Request for Information**

With regards to your recent enquiry for information held by the Authority under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Please find the information you requested below with reference in the box to your original enquiry for clarity where multiple answers are required.

#### **Details of Your Request**

*Please see attached PDF*

#### **The response to your request as follows:**

1. Estate Research
2. 2013
3. Public Health interments
4. No benefit
5. Tamworth Borough Council do
6. They made us aware of their services not selected by Tamworth Borough Council
7. No. Tamworth Borough Council's statutory duty to conduct Public Health burials
8. No arrangement
9. Barbara Cox 01/08/2013 dod, 20/12/1943 dob; John Barry Dickinson 25/05/2013 dod, 10/02/1946 dob
10. Verbal conversations
11. No

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT USE OF INFORMATION PROVIDED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FoIA)**

Most of the information that we provide in response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests will be subject to copyright protection. In most cases the copyright will be owned by Tamworth

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This council also believes in transparency of information, this includes requests made under the Freedom of Information Act and the Environmental Information Regulations and we reserve the right to publish these requests in our Disclosure Log along with the response, the requestors name and/or company where the information is requested on a regular basis. Care shall be taken not to publish your email address or physical address where it is considered personal information as defined under the Data Protection Act 1998.

Project and Information Coordinator,  
Tamworth Borough Council,  
Marmion House,  
Lichfield Street,  
Tamworth,  
B79 7BZ

Details of Tamworth Borough Council's internal review and complaints procedure are attached, in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Yours Sincerely

Nicola Hesketh  
Project and Information Coordinator



**LB & Co**

Information Coordinator,  
Tamworth Borough Council,  
Marmion House, Lichfield Street,  
Tamworth,  
taffs,  
B79 7BZ

15 September 2016

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Freedom of Information Act 2000**  
**Our ref: FOI/D26**

Further to our previous Freedom of Information request relating to public health funerals and the authority's use of genealogical companies, we would now like to request the following:

**Has the authority at any time used a genealogist, probate researcher or tracing agent to locate the next of kin of a deceased person for whom the authority is to undertake, or has undertaken, a public health funeral?**

If the answer to this question is NO, please provide answers to the following questions:

1. Does the authority employ or contract a house clearance company as part of the process of dealing with a death in the community?
2. If so, please provide contact details for said company.
3. Does the council require said clearance company to sign a confidentiality agreement?
4. Is the authority aware of any arrangements or sharing of information about the deceased between the clearance company and a third party, in particular genealogical researchers?

If the answer to this question is YES, please provide answers to the following questions:

1. Which researcher(s) are used?
2. When did the arrangement commence?
3. For what specific reason does the authority provide information to the researcher(s) to locate the next of kin of deceased persons who die in the district? Which statutory function is the authority fulfilling when it engages researchers to seek to identify next of kin?
4. In particular, what is the benefit to the authority of entering into this arrangement?
5. Why does the authority not rely on referring all deaths of people who die intestate with no identified next of kin and assets of over £500 to the Government Legal Department Bona Vacantia Division for general advertisement of the unclaimed estate, in order that relatives may be located?



6. What due diligence process was used and against which criteria were these companies selected in preference to any other research company?
7. Is the authority aware that the research company is likely to derive a commercial benefit from the location of next of kin? Has the authority considered the financial implications for the next of kin?
8. Any arrangement between the authority and the research company will form a contract, even if not formalised. Please provide a copy of the contract or record of such agreement.
9. Please provide the name, date of death and date of birth of any deceased persons for whom a genealogical company was used to trace relatives, from the first recorded referral to the most recent.
10. Please provide full copies of the exchange of emails between the authority and genealogical companies for all periods during which referrals were made.
11. Does the council have a Death in the Community Procedure or similar written procedure relating to the process that is followed when an individual who dies in the district is referred to the council? If so, please provide a copy.

In relation to Question 9, it should be noted that this is not exempt information for the purpose of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Several other local authorities have freely provided this information when requested, including Luton, Kensington & Chelsea, Slough, Telford and South Derbyshire.

Please send your response to Rosie Kelly at [rosie@lbandco.uk](mailto:rosie@lbandco.uk).

Yours faithfully

LB & Co Limited