

FOI REF:	16492
RESPONSE SENT:	27/01/2026

Request

Dear Sir/Madam, Under the Freedom of Information Act, I am writing to request the following information regarding funerals arranged by the Council under Section 46 Public Health Act 1984 (England and Wales) and Section 87 of the Burial and Cremation Act 2002 (Scotland).

How many such funerals has the Council arranged since 17 September 2025? In each case please disclose:

- a) The name and last residential address of the deceased
- b) The deceased's dates of birth and death
- c) Whether the deceased's next of kin/family members have been traced
- d) Whether the deceased's estate has been referred to the Government Legal Department or elsewhere

Has the Council passed this information to any other individual or organisation (either formally through a FOI request or by other means)?

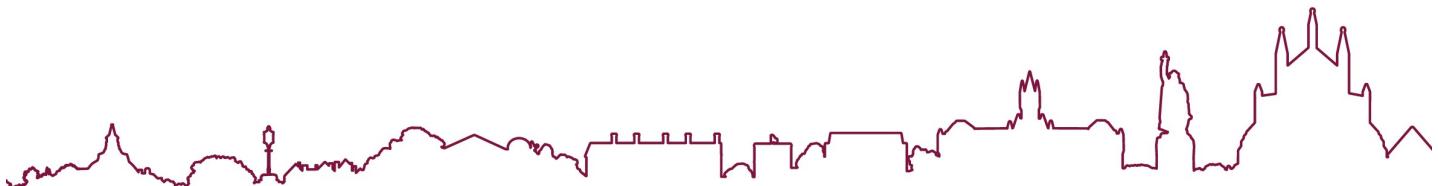
What is the Council policy on referring Bona Vacantia matters to the relevant authorities across the UK?

Does the Council work with any genealogist? If so, which?

Does the Council publish a list of Public Health Funerals it has arranged? If so:

- a) Where is the list published (please provide web url if on-line)?
- b) How often is the list updated?
- c) When was the list last updated? Who in the Council is responsible for the Council's Public Health Funerals?

Please advise us of their names and contact details.



Response

A list of Public Health Funeral cases and whether they have been referred to the Treasury Solicitor is available on the council's website at [Deaths, Funerals and Burials - Winchester City Council](#) – see document on the right hand side titled 'List of Public Health Funerals from 1 Jan 2025'.

This list is updated approximately every 4-6 weeks.

Cases from 17 September 2025 have not been passed via an FOI, however, as this information is public and other companies are aware of this, it is open to all.

The council does not pass on Bona Vacantia cases to other authorities.

Winchester City Council use Finders International to trace next of kin.

The Licensing Team administer Public Health Funeral cases. Carol Stefanczuk, Licensing Manager, Winchester City Council, City Offices, Colebrook Street, Winchester, SO23 9LJ. Email: licensing@winchester.gov.uk

