



Freedom of Information, Information Compliance Unit, Kent Police Headquarters, Sutton Road,
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Ms. Beverley Trembl
request-29810-20efdf86@whatdotheyknow.com

Date: 29th March 2010

Tel No.: (DDI) 01622 654429

FOI Ref: 1491/2010

Dear Ms. Trembl,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 1491/2010

I write in connection with your correspondence received by Kent Police on the 1st March 2010, in which you requested the following information:

I wish to know your regulations for a coroner to notify an; individual about an inquest into the death a very close relation.

Coroners are independent judicial officers appointed and paid for by the relevant local authorities who are responsible for investigating violent, unnatural deaths or sudden deaths of unknown cause and deaths in custody that are reported to them.

Kent Police do not have any specific policy regarding the notification of interested parties following a death. However, we are not required to notify all 'interested persons', as listed in section 47 of the Coroners Act (amended 2009) which includes, but is not limited to;

(a) a spouse, civil partner, partner, parent, child, brother, sister, grandparent, grandchild, child of a brother or sister, stepfather, stepmother, half-brother or half-sister;

(b) a personal representative of the deceased;

Kent Police policy M64 requires officers dealing with sudden deaths to -

'make as many enquiries as possible to trace next of kin; ensure the Coroner's Officer is aware of the progress of those enquiries.'

Policy M64 can be viewed online at www.kent.police.uk

On behalf of the coroners Kent Police will, so far as is reasonable, notify any interested persons such as next of kin or legal representatives where this information is known, as well as any witnesses etc.

More information on the role of coroners can be found at;

<http://www.coronersociety.org.uk>

This site states that the Ministry of Justice (<http://www.justice.gov.uk>) is responsible for the law and policy that governs coroners and deals with the operation of the current coroner system.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Justice would hold any information concerning legal requirements or regulations.

Thank you for your interest in Kent Police and I hope the information provided is of assistance to you. If you have any further queries concerning your request, or the application of the Freedom of Information Act in general, please contact this office quoting the reference number shown above.

Yours sincerely,

Laura Birchley
Freedom of Information Administrator

Your right to complain

We take our responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act seriously but, if you feel your request has not been properly handled or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have the right to complain. We will conduct an internal review to investigate the matter and endeavor to reply within 20 working days. If your appeal concerns the decision to apply an exemption, it would assist the review if you would outline why you believe the exemption does not apply.

You may lodge your complaint by writing to:

Information Compliance Unit
Professional Standards Department
Kent Police Headquarters
Sutton Road,
Maidstone
Kent
ME15 9BZ

Or by e-mailing

freedomofinformation@kent.pnn.police.uk

If you are still dissatisfied following our internal review, you have the right under section 50 of the Act to complain directly to the Information Commissioner. Before considering your complaint, the Information Commissioner would normally expect you to have exhausted the complaints procedures provided by Kent Police.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

FOI Compliance Team (complaints)
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF