



Department of Health

29/09/2014

DE00000886329

Dear Mr Trenergy,

Thank you for your request of 11 September 2014 under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). Your exact request was:

"I understand that the NHS is responsible for delivering a funeral service when no funds can be obtained from the deceased, or relatives.

Can you please send me details of the total number of paupers funerals that needed to be arranged, the total cost involved for these paupers funerals and which facility were provided for the deceased? If possible, can these be split by trust or region?"

The Department does not hold this information as it is not collected centrally.

Under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984, when a resident in the area passes away outside of a hospital and there is no one else willing to pay, local councils make the necessary arrangements for a public health funeral.

You may wish to contact local councils directly who may hold information relevant to your request. Contact details for all councils can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council>

The exception to this is if the person has died at a hospital run by an NHS trust. In these circumstances, responsibility for the funeral arrangements rests with the respective NHS Trust. However, whereas some hospitals follow this guidance, others pass these cases to the relevant local council.

You may wish to contact NHS authorities directly as they may hold information relevant to your request. Contact details for all NHS authorities can be found on the NHS Choices website:

<http://www.nhs.uk/nhsengland/thenhs/about/pages/authoritiesandtrusts.aspx>

Funeral Payments, available for those on low incomes who need help to pay for a funeral, are administered by the Department for Work and Pensions

(DWP). You may wish to contact the DWP who may hold information relevant to your request. The email address for the DWP Freedom of Information Team is:

freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

The latest publically available information relevant to your request is provided in a report named 'Public Health Funerals', published by the Local Government Association in October 2011. However, as this information is already in the public domain, we will under Section 21 of the FOI Act (information accessible to the applicant by other means) refer you to the published source:

http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=59d4ed48-08a5-4f9b-80c3-00ce5fcd341b&groupId=10180

You may wish to contact the Local Government Association who may hold more recent information. They can be contacted at:

info@local.gov.uk

If you have any queries about this email, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Head of the Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health
Room 520
Richmond House
79 Whitehall,
London
SW1A 2NS

Email: freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Department. The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Peter Camilleri

Freedom of Information Officer
Department of Health

freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk