



Ministry of JUSTICE

Administrative Justice and
Coroners Division
Access to Justice
Justice Policy Group
4th Floor (4.36)
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

T 020 3334 3555
F 020 3334 4455

BY EMAIL

request-84865-41cd323a@whatdotheyknow.com

www.justice.gov.uk

Our reference: 73878

3 January 2012

Dear Mr Cross,

INTERNAL REVIEW OF YOUR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST (REF: 72193)

Thank you for your email of 5 December 2011 requesting an internal review of your recent request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). This request for an internal review has been passed to me as I work in the Coroners, Burial, Cremation and Public Inquiries Policy team in the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). This internal review is being handled under FOIA.

On 31 August 2011 you requested the following information from MoJ:

Please send a list of names of UK coroners, the areas they serve and their email addresses.

My colleague, Barrie Thurlow, responded to your request outside of the FOIA and supplied a list of coroners' districts including the names of the coroners and their postal addresses. This response did not include email addressees or telephone numbers.

On 6 September 2011 you sent a further request to MoJ:

Please provide all the email addresses for the coroners/coroners' offices. In the event you believe that any part of the information I have requested is exempt please explain why and issue a valid refusal notice.

Barrie Thurlow responded to your request for all coroners/coroners' office email addresses under FOIA on 4 October 2011. In that response he confirmed that MoJ holds email addresses for all coroners but that that information was exempt from release under FOIA as some of them were published online and therefore reasonably accessible to you by other means (section 21(1) of FOIA). Mr Thurlow also informed you that the remaining coroners' email addresses were exempt from release under FOIA as they contained personal information (section 40(2) of FOIA). Mr Thurlow further confirmed that it is not necessary to apply the public interest test when applying the exemptions under section 21(1) or section 40(2). I note that in his reply Mr Thurlow did not confirm or deny whether MoJ holds

information on coroners' *offices* email addresses. However, I am able to inform you now that MoJ does not hold that information.

On 5 December 2011 you requested an internal review of Mr Thurlow's response to your request under FOIA:

- (a) I do not accept that a public official providing an email address to a Government Department for the purposes of official correspondence has a reasonable expectation of privacy with respect to that email address.
- (b) A Coroner ought to keep his/her private email correspondence as separate as possible from his/her official correspondence and that would include having a separate official email account.
- (c) You did not specify which coroner's email addresses were withheld under which exemptions.
- (d) the ICO's Lines to Take document LTT151 states that "... In this case the public authority has to be reasonably specific to ensure it is found without difficulty and not hidden in a mass of other information." Therefore you should provide me with the list I have requested rather than suggesting I conduct multiple searches of a number of websites.

In answering your request for internal review I have reviewed the original request, the information in question, and your request for an internal review of 5 December 2011.

In response to your points at (a), (b) and (d) I can confirm that the majority of the information you were seeking was correctly withheld as it relates to another person and we are not obliged, under section 40(2) FOIA, to provide information that is the personal information of another person if releasing would contravene any of the provisions in the Data Protection Act 1998, for example, if disclosure is unfair. This is particularly so as most of these email addresses are either for the coroner's private business or for personal use only. It is therefore arguable that coroners supplied this information to MoJ with a legitimate expectation that MoJ would not disclose it to external parties. I am therefore satisfied that section 40 FOIA was properly applied.

I can also confirm that the remaining information you were seeking was correctly withheld under section 21(1) FOIA as it is reasonably accessible to you by other means. With this in mind I also note that Mr Thurlow provided you with information about where you could find these email addresses (the Coroners' Society of England and Wales: www.coronersociety.org.uk and the local authority websites that correspond to the coroner's district).

In response to your point (c) I can inform you that of the 98 email addresses MoJ holds for coroners in England and Wales, 74 are being withheld for disclosure under section 40(2) FOIA, and 24 are being withheld from disclosure under section 21(1) FOIA. The details of the 74 coroners whose email addresses are being withheld as they relate to personal information (section 40(2) FOIA) are as follows:

Dr James Adeley
Mr Eric Armstrong

HM Coroner for Preston and West Lancashire
HM Coroner for South Northumberland

Mr Ian Arrow	HM Coroner for Plymouth and South West Devon; Torbay and South Devon; and the Isles of Scilly
Mr Robin Balmain	HM Coroner for Black Country
Mrs Caroline Beasley-Murray	HM Coroner for Essex No. 1
Mr David Bowen	HM Coroner for Gwent
Mr Hugh Bricknell	HM Coroner for Herefordshire
Mr Tony Brown	HM Coroner for North Northumberland
Mr Peter Brunton	HM Coroner for Ceredigion
Mr Michael Burgess OBE	HM Coroner for the Queen's Household
Dr Emma Carlyon	HM Coroner for Cornwall
Ms Mairin Casey	HM Coroner for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City
Miss Rebecca Cobb	HM Coroner for North East Kent
Mr Donald Coverdale	HM Coroner for York
Mr Peter Dean	HM Coroner for Suffolk and Essex No. 2
Mr Malcolm Donnelly	HM Coroner for Hartlepool
Mr Chris Dorries OBE	HM Coroner for South Yorkshire (West)
Dr Elizabeth Earland	HM Coroner for Exeter and Greater Devon
Mr Nick Gardiner	HM Coroner for Oxfordshire
Mr John Gittins	HM Deputy Coroner for Central North Wales and North East Wales (acting)
Mr Andrew Haigh	HM Coroner for South Staffordshire
Miss Veronica Hamilton-Deeley	HM Coroner for Brighton and Hove
Dr Andrew Harris	HM Coroner for Inner London (South)
Ms Patricia Harding	HM Coroner for Mid Kent and Medway
Ms Mary Hassell	HM Coroner for Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan
Mr David Hinchliff	HM Coroner for West Yorkshire (East)
Mrs Anne Hind	HM Coroner for Blackpool and Fylde
Mr Richard Hulett	HM Coroner for Buckinghamshire
Dr Robert Hunter	HM Coroner for Derby and South Derbyshire
Mr Chinyere Inyama	HM Coroner for Greater London (East)
Mr Chris Johnson	HM Coroner for Wirral
Mr Michael Johnston	HM Coroner for Western Dorset
Mr Paul Kelly	HM Coroner for North Lincolnshire and Grimsby
Mr Mark Layton	HM Coroner for Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire
Mrs Jennifer Leeming	HM Coroner for Greater Manchester (West)
Mr Peter Maddox	HM Coroner for Powys and Bridgend and Glamorgan
Professor Paul Marks	HM Deputy Coroner for West Yorkshire (West) (acting)
Ms Catherine Mason	HM Coroner for Leicester City and South Leicestershire
Mr Paul Matthews	HM Coroner for City of London
Mr Sean McGovern	HM Coroner for Warwickshire and Coventry
Mr David Mitford	HM Coroner for Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Mr David Morris	HM Coroner for Bedfordshire and Luton
Ms Nicola Mundy	HM Coroner for South Yorkshire (East)
Mr Simon Nelson	HM Coroner for Greater Manchester (North)
Mrs Anne Pember	HM Coroner for Northamptonshire

Mr John Pollard	HM Coroner for Greater Manchester (South)
Mr Dewi Pritchard-Jones	HM Coroner for North West Wales
Mr Andre Rebello OBE	HM Coroner for Liverpool
Ms Rachel Redman	HM Coroner for Central and South East Ken
Dr Andrew Reid	HM Coroner for Inner London (North)
Mr Nicholas Rheinberg	HM Coroner for Cheshire, Halton and Warrington
Mr David Ridley	HM Coroner for Wiltshire and Swindon
Mr David Roberts	HM Coroner for North and West Cumbria
Mr Philip Rogers	HM Coroner for Neath and Port Talbot and Swansea
Mr Michael Rose	HM Coroner for Western Somerset
Mr Gordon Ryall	HM Coroner for Peterborough and Stamford
Mr Geoffrey Saul	HM Coroner for Kingston upon Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire
Mr Grahame Short	HM Coroner for Central Hampshire
Mr Anthony Sibcy	HM Coroner for South Shropshire
Mr Michael Singleton	HM Coroner for Blackburn, Hyndburn, and Ribble Valley
Mr Ian Smith	HM Coroner for South and East Cumbria
Mr Ian S Smith	HM Coroner for Stoke on Trent and North Staffordshire
Mr Chris Sumner	HM Coroner for Knowsley, St Helens and Sefton
Miss Maureen Taylor	HM Coroner for Boston and Spalding
Mr Richard Taylor	HM Coroner for East Lancashire
Mr Edward Thomas	HM Coroner for Hertfordshire
Mr Richard Travers	HM Coroner for Surrey
Mr Robert Turnbull	HM Coroner for North Yorkshire (West)
Mr Andrew Tweddle	HM Coroner for Northern and Southern Durham and Darlington
Dr Fiona Wilcox	HM Coroner for Inner London (West)
Ms Maria Voisin	HM Coroner for Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol City, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire
Mr Andrew Walker	HM Coroner for Greater London (North)
Mr Tony Williams	HM Coroner for East Somerset
Mr Derek Winter	HM Coroner for Sunderland

The details of the 24 coroners whose email addresses are reasonably accessible through other means (section 21(1) FOIA) are as follows:

Mr William Armstrong	HM Coroner for Norfolk
Mr Peter Bedford	HM Coroner for Berkshire
Mr Andrew Bradley	HM Coroner for Hampshire (North East)
Mr Terence Carney	HM Coroner for Gateshead and South Tyneside
Mr Aidan Cotter	HM Coroner for Birmingham
Mr Alan Craze	HM Coroner for East Sussex
Mr David Dooley	HM Deputy Coroner for Gloucestershire (acting)
Mr John Ellery	HM Coroner for Mid and North West Shropshire and the Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Mr Stuart Fisher	HM Coroner for Spilsby and Louth; acting coroner for West Lincolnshire
Mr Roger Hatch	HM Coroner for North West Kent
Mr David Horsley	HM Coroner for Portsmouth and South East Hampshire
Mr Trevor Kirkman	HM Coroner for Rutland and North Leicestershire
Mr John Matthews	HM Coroner for Isle of Wight
Mr Nigel Meadows	HM Coroner for City of Manchester
Mr William Morris	HM Coroner for North and East Cambridgeshire
Mr Michael Oakley	HM Coroner for North Yorkshire (Eastern)
Mr Tom Osborne	HM Coroner for Milton Keynes
Dr Roy Palmer	HM Coroner for Greater London (South)
Mr Sheriff Payne	HM Coroner for Bournemouth, Poole and Eastern Dorset
Ms Penelope Schofield	HM Coroner for West Sussex
Mr Michael Sheffield	HM Coroner for Teesside
Ms Alison Thompson	HM Coroner for Greater London (West)
Mr Geraint Williams	HM Coroner for Worcestershire
Mr Keith Wiseman	HM Coroner for Southampton and New Forest

To conclude, and as a result of my internal review of this case, I would agree the information you requested was correctly withheld from disclosure under FOIA. I also consider that the response issued by Mr Thurlow was compliant with the FOIA although I accept that it should have provided some further information.

If you remain dissatisfied after an internal review decision, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner's Office under section 50 FOIA. You can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

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

Internet: www.ico.gov.uk/Global/contact_us.aspx

Yours sincerely

Joanne Noble