Public Health Funerals - Freedom of Information Requests received from January 2013 to date.

Foi Ref 2013/0084

How many public funerals did the council pay for in the following years:

Apr 2009 - Mar 2010 - 31
Apr 2010 - Mar 2011 - 21
Mar 2011 - Dec 2012 - 43

What was the financial cost to the Council for the above 3 years (please list the years separately)

April 2009 - March 2010 - £27,016
April 2010 – April 2011 - £20,301
April 2011 – Dec 2012 - £47,693

April 2009 - March 2010 - £3,738.82
April 2010 – April 2011 - £16,272.23
April 2011 – Dec 2012 - £14,488.90

This is an income rather than expenditure and actually reflects the fact that income is not necessarily recovered during the financial year that the death occurred.

Please list what the costs were spent on (e.g. undertaker, service, gravedigger, administration, etc)

The costs include the following elements, cremation or burial fee, funeral home costs, Dr’s fee, and Ministers fee; it does not include the cost to the local authority of administering these cases (this specific information is not held).

How much money has been set aside to pay for public funerals in the next financial year (Apr 2013 - Mar 2014)

2013/14 budget figures are not yet confirmed but we expect it to be last year’s figure (£11,350) plus RPI

Foi ref 2013/0166

I would like to know how many public health funerals have been carried out by you local authority since November 2012 when no known next of kin can be found.

Between November 2012 and the date of your request we dealt with eight public health funerals, five of which had no next of kin.
I would like to know the deceased names (including maiden names)
Date of birth and death
Last known address and when, or if the estate will be passed onto the
Treasury Solicitor, QLTR or the Duchy of Cornwall and Lancaster.

Details of next of kin are publicly available via the following link:
http://www.bonavacantia.gov.uk/output/

Foi Ref 2013/0179

Within the council, who is in charge for sending information regarding
public health funerals to the Treasury Solicitor, Duchy of Cornwall,
Duchy of Lancaster, QLTR, Crown Solicitor and/or National Ultimus
Haeres? Would you please include some/all of this information - First
and surname of the person Job title Department he/she works in Email
address Telephone contact

Mrs D Wright
Environmental Protection Officer, Environmental and Consumer Services
North Somerset Council
Tel: 01275 884298
Post: North Somerset Council, Town Hall
Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset. BS23 1UJ

dot.wright@n-somerset.gov.uk

Foi Ref 2013/0249

For each public health funeral would you please provide the following
answers:

Date of death of the deceased?
Name of the deceased?
Place of death/last known address?
Place of birth/date of birth?
Marital Status?
Have the next of kin have been traced?
Estate value? (if known)
The date on which the details will be referred to the Treasury Solicitor
(or QLTR, Duchy or National Ultimus Haeres within their jurisdictions) or
any other public authority for further investigations?

Under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) the Council has the right to
refuse the disclosure of information if exemptions as defined within the Act
apply. The Council concludes in this case that an exemption applies and has therefore decided to refuse your request.

The non-disclosure of information is in line with Section 21 – information already reasonably accessible on http://www.bonavacantia.gov.uk/output/

Foi Ref 2013/00402

Q1. Have any NHS trusts or hospitals notified the council on information regarding a death, where there have been no known next of kin?

Yes.

Q2. If yes, please provide the name of the person and department, who is responsible for providing this information to the council, along with a telephone number, postal address and email address.

Bereavement Office, Weston General Hospital, Grange Road, Uphill, Weston super Mare, Somerset. Tel: 01934-647004.

Q3. Within the council who is responsible for dealing with these deaths or public health funerals where there have been no known next of kin?

3a. For question 3, please provide the name of the person (and department) along with a telephone number, postal address and email address.

Mrs D Wright, Environmental Protection, North Somerset Council, 1st Floor, Town Hall, Weston super Mare, Somerset BS23 1UJ. Tel: 01275-884298. E-mail: dot.wright@n-somerset.gov.uk

Q4. How many deaths have been referred to the council via the NHS trust or hospital since December 2012? - 2

Q5. How many public health funerals have occurred within the council since December 2012? - 6

Q6. For each public health funeral where there have been no known next of kin, does the council contact any organisation to trace the next of kin? If yes, please state the name of the firm/company and why? - No

Q7. Does the council have a contract with these companies/firms? If not, what is the reason for using these companies/firm? - N/A

8. For question 4 and 5 (for each funeral or death), please provide:
   a) Name of the deceased
   b) Date of death and date of birth
   c) Last known address

A8 a) b) c). Information can be found on
d) Have the next of kin have been traced - next of kin have been traced for two deaths we have dealt with.

Q8e) Reason for providing the funeral - No next of kin/next of kin estranged/live away/elderly and cannot fund funeral

Q8 f) Have the costs of the funeral been recovered? - Some costs have been recovered if there are sufficient savings/credit in bank account of deceased

Q8 g) Have you referred this information to the Treasury Solicitors, Duchy of Cornwall, QLTR, Duchy of Lancaster, National Ultimus Haeres, or any other person/organisation? If yes, please state the date and the name of the organisation to which the referral has been made - Yes, Information was referred to Treasury Solicitor 15/5/13.

Foi Ref 2013/0418

I would like to know how many public health funerals have been carried out by you local authority since April 2012.

Since April 2012 21 Public Health funerals have been carried out by this authority.

I would like to know the deceased names (including maiden names), date of birth and death, last known address and when or if the estate will be passed onto the Treasury Solicitor, QLTR or the Duchy of Cornwall and Lancaster.

Names/dates of birth and death – this information is publicly available via the following link:

http://www.bonavacantia.gov.uk/output/

Two cases have been referred to the Treasury Solicitor on 19/9/12 and 15/5/13.

The above information is provided from 1 May 2012, there were a further three public health funerals carried out during April 2012, one of which was referred to the Treasury Solicitor on 16/5/12.

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Foi Ref 2013/0470

Please provide answers using the time line of December 2012 to the date of your response.

A) Within the council which department is responsible for contacting or tracing the next of kin when there is public health funeral? Please provide name and contact details*.- Dot Wright, dot.wright@n-somerset.gov.uk, 01275 884298

B) If this is not the responsibility of the council, then please provide name and contact details* of who is responsible for this – NA

C) When there is a death within the council and there are no known next of kin to make funeral arrangements, what are the steps taken by the council? Please provide details of the procedure followed - Where no-one is prepared to make the funeral arrangements the Council will register the death and make the necessary funeral arrangements through our contracted funeral home.

D) Once the council is aware of this death, which organisation and/or people are notified at first instance? Please provide name and contact details*- There is no set list of contacts – it depends on the individual circumstances of the death and the information surrounding the deceased’s background.

E) If you have been listed as an "Informant" on http://www.bonavacantia.gov.uk/output/advertised-estates.aspx under the Current Estates list, please state which department within the council* has been the informant to the Treasury Solicitor - Refer to Bonavacantia website: http://www.bonavacantia.gov.uk/output/

F) How many public health funerals have taken place since December 2012? - 8

G) For each public health funeral please provide answers to the following questions:
   i) Within the council who* was responsible for tracing the next of kin? - See A
   ii) Have the next of kin been traced? – Yes - where they exist
   iii) What was the reason for the council to provide this funeral? – No-one prepared to make the funeral arrangements

   iv) Name of the deceased
   v) Date of death
   vi) Last known address
   vii) Date of birth

Names/dates of birth and death – this information is publicly available via the following link:
viii) Cost of the funeral - For the eight funerals the cost was £11,259
ix) How much of the costs have been recovered? - So far £2,639.86 has been recovered
x) How did the council recover these costs? Through which means? - Through the estate of the deceased.
xii) Have you referred this information to Treasury Solicitors, Duchy of Cornwall, QLTR, Duchy of Lancaster, National Ultimus Haeres? - Only one has been referred to the Treasury Solicitor

Foi Ref 2012/0596

1) What is the name of the council officer who is (or would be) responsible for sending information to the Treasury Solicitor, Duchy of Cornwall, Duchy of Lancaster, QLTR, Crown Solicitor, National Ultimus Haeres and/or Farrer & Co with regards to national assistance/public health funerals.

1a) Please include full name of the person
1b) Job title and department
1c) Telephone contact
1d) Postal address
1e) Email address

Dot Wright/dot.wright@n-somerset.gov.uk
Environmental Protection Officer
North Somerset Council, Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset. BS23 1UJ

Tel: 01275-884298

2) What is the name of the council officer who is (or would be) responsible to trace/inform the family members or relatives of people who have died and are in need of a national assistance/ public health funeral.

2a) Please include full name of the person
2b) Job title and department
2c) Telephone contact
2d) Postal address
2e) Email address

As above

3) It is important that family and friends are aware of the deceased's death and funeral. When the council takes the responsibility for arranging these national assistance/public health funeral, what efforts
are made so family members and friends are aware of the funeral taking place?
3a) Does the council place a notice on the website?
3b) Does the council place a notice in the newspaper? What is the name of
the newspaper in which the notice is placed?
3c) Does the council place a notice on-line (other than the council
website)? What is the name of the website in which the notice is placed.
3d) If the council does not place the notice, is this done by someone
external (or another company)? What is the name of the external contact
who is responsible for this?
3e) If the council does not place any notices for family or friends to
attend the funeral, what are the reasons for this?

The Council do not place notices in papers or on websites

4) How many national assistance/public health funerals have occurred
from 1st Jan 2013? – 14

5) How many national assistance/public health funerals have occurred
prior to 1st Jan 2013 and are still pending cases, where work is still
ongoing? - 6

For funerals that have occurred from 1st Jan 2013:

6a) What is the full name of the deceased?
6b) What is the last known address of the deceased?
6c) What is the date of death of the deceased?
6d) What is the date of birth of the deceased?

Names/dates of birth and death – this information is publicly available via the
following link:

http://www.bonavacantia.gov.uk/output/

6e) Has the council been able to locate the family/relatives? - The council
have traced/notified next of kin for 7 cases

6f) Who informed the council of the death? - The Coroner’s office or
Nursing Home

6g) What date has the funeral taken place? - Information not held

6h) How much did the funeral cost? - £16,044 has been paid in funeral
costs to date, with 2 outstanding invoices to follow.

6i) How did the council recover the costs of the funeral? - Bank/Building
Society/third party i.e. Treasury solicitor/solicitor dealing with estate
6j) Have you informed the Treasury Solicitor, Duchy, Farrer & Co, QLTR and/or National Ultimus Haeres Unit? - Where applicable

6k) If you have not informed the above (j), please state why not? - NOK informed/with third party i.e. solicitors

6l) If you have informed the above (j), please state the date informed. - As soon as possible – date not recorded

6c

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7) For funerals that have occurred prior to 1st Jan 2013 and are known as pending cases (where work is still in progress), please answer questions same as above (6a-6l).

7a,b,d as 6 a,b,d

7.c)

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7.d) Exempt

7.e) Where possible

7.f) Coroner's office or Nursing Home

7.g) Information not held

7.h) £7031

7.i) Through estate

7.j) Where applicable

7.k) NOK informed/with third party i.e. solicitors

7.l) As soon as possible, date not recorded.