

FOI REF: 25/703

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025

Tel: 0300 131 4500  
Website: [www.esht.nhs.uk](http://www.esht.nhs.uk)

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

**My request particularly relates to Adult Social Services / Public Health who deal with the funerals and or estates of individuals who have died within the local authority at one of your hospitals or healthcare institutions.**

**I would be grateful if you could provide the following information:**

- 1. Does your NHS Trust use a professional genealogy or heir tracing service to locate next of kin in any of the following circumstances:**
  - a. Where an individual has died intestate or with no known next of kin;**
  - b. Where the NHS Trust or local authority has arranged a public health funeral under its statutory duties?**

No.

- 2. If so, please could you provide the name(s) of the genealogy firm(s) or individual genealogist(s) your authority has used for this purpose in the past five years?**

Not applicable.

- 3. If your Trust maintains a list or panel of approved genealogists or firms for such services, I would also like to request information on how my firm can apply to be considered for inclusion on that list.**

No. For further information please email [esht.bereavementserviceedgh@nhs.net](mailto:esht.bereavementserviceedgh@nhs.net).

4. **If you do not work with genealogist, can you confirm that should you be unable to locate next of kin, you then refer details straight to the Treasury Solicitor without the involvement of any professional genealogist?**

Yes.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department ([esh-tr.foi@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Department  
[esh-tr.foi@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)