

**Freedom of Information Act / Environmental Information Regulations Request**

Reference: ECC18795125 07 25
Response: 07 August 2025

**Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are writing to request information regarding deceased individuals (with associated information), confirmed as having no known kith and kin, and deceased individuals not confirmed as having no known kith and kin, within your jurisdiction. If your unable to provide any of the below information, please specify what information your unable to provide and why your unable to provide this information. We ideally require all the following information:**

**Information of all deceased individuals to date for the last three years, broken down into individual records of those deceased to include the following information:**

1. **full name of the deceased**
2. **date of birth of the deceased at the time of death**
3. **full residential addresses of the deceased**
4. **full address of the site and/or contact details of the site where the deceased passed away**
5. **date of death**
6. **of the deceased without any known kith and kin or you’re in the process of establishing if this deceased has any kith and kin, did this deceased have any assets and/or properties**
7. **of the deceased without any known kith and kin, or you’re in the process of establishing if this deceased has any kith and kin, what is the full address where the individual’s cremation or the burial took place and the cost of the individual deceased’s burial or cremation**
8. **of the deceased without any known kith and kin or you’re in the process of establishing if this deceased has any kith and kin, specify what personal information of the deceased was passed to:**
9. **which tracing agent/s with their full contact details and/or**
10. **the government legal department and/or treasury department/s and/or**
11. **which probate firm/s with their full contact and/or**
12. **any other entity**
13. **of the deceased without any known kith and kin or you’re in the process of establishing if this deceased has any kith and kin, what is the date when the deceased’s personal information was passed to:**
14. **tracing agent/s and/or**
15. **the government legal department and/or treasury department/s and/or**
16. **probate firm and/or**
17. **any other entity**
18. **of the deceased without any known kith and kin or you’re in the process of establishing if this deceased has any kith and kin, what specific information of the deceased was shared with:**
19. **tracing agent/s and/or**
20. **the government legal department and/or treasury department/s**
21. **probate firm/s and/or**
22. **any other entity**
23. **of the deceased without any known kith and kin and/or you’re in the process of establishing if this deceased has any kith and kin, what is the cost of the cremation or the burial of the individual deceased**
24. **what is the council’s department name and the council department’s e-mail address and/or any other contact information, responsible for passing the individual deceased records to :**
25. **tracing agent/s and/or**
26. **the government legal department and/or treasury department/s and/or**
27. **probate firm/s**

I can confirm that Essex County Council does hold some information falling within the scope of the above requests.

**Summary of Response**

In summary, the Council is refusing this request because its scope is too large (this is explained formally below). Advice is set out below about how you may want to submit a new, more targeted request.

Why the request is being refused

Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. Regulation 3 of the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limits and Fees) Regulations 2004 (the Regulations) states that the Council is not required to respond to a request if it would cost more than £450 to respond to, costed at £25 per hour as per regulation 4 (which equates to 18 hours).

The information you have requested is spread across several different teams within the Council. The Council does not store the information you have requested in a format which is searchable or extractable electronically, meaning that data extraction would have to be manual.

The estimated time it would take Officers to carry out a search for the information requested is 10 minutes per individual case. Whilst this may not seem excessive, due to the number of cases which are potentially in scope of the request, Officers would be required to search over 1,000 individual records. This places the Council’s estimate for the time it would take to comply with the request at over 200 hours, which charged at £25 per hour places complying with the request at over the £450 listed in the Regulations. In making this assessment, we have considered the time which we consider it would take to locate, retrieve and extract the requested information.

**Advice and Assistance**

In order to reduce the cost of complying with your request you could consider reducing the scope of the request so that you only request, for example, information from a specific team in this period, for example:

Restrict your request to information held by one team, for example the Deputyship team for a reduced time period.

You could also consider reducing the scope of the request so that you only request the information for a much shorter timeframe, for example:

Restrict your request to information held by the Council between 01/01/2025 and 01/08/2025.

Please note that under section 12 (4), if you were to make several different requests for the same information for multiple weeks or from multiple teams the Council may be entitled to aggregate the estimated cost of complying with those requests.

Please contact us using the details below if you would like further advice or assistance.

**Your Right to Know**

Democracy and Transparency

Essex County Council

Telephone: 033301 38989

Email: YourRight.ToKnow@essex.gov.uk | [www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk)