



Further to your information request FOI/EIR 23/24-486, please find your question and our response below.

**Request:**

I am seeking information regarding the use of Probate Researchers or Probate Research Firms (often referred to as 'heir hunters') by the council. Specifically, I would like to request the following information (in the following, "you" refers to the council / authority for whom you work):

1. Have you used a Probate Researcher or Probate Research Firm (commonly known as 'heir hunters') in any capacity in the last 12 months?

Do you have a formal arrangement or contract in place with a Probate Research firm?

Have you ever used a Probate Researcher or Probate Research Firm (commonly known as 'heir hunters') in any capacity? This includes but is not limited to engaging their services to trace potential heirs or beneficiaries of deceased estates.

I kindly request that you provide any relevant documents, records, or information pertaining to the above requests.

**Response:**

1. No, East Cambridgeshire District Council has not used a Probate Researcher or Probate Research firm in the last 12 months.

No, East Cambridgeshire District Council does not have a formal arrangement or contract in place with a Probate Research firm.

Yes, we have previously used genealogists Estate Research and Finders International.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 23/24-486.

If information has been refused, please treat this as a Refusal Notice for the purposes of the Act.

If you disagree with our decision or are otherwise unhappy with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach [foi@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:foi@eastcambs.gov.uk) and request a review. A request for review must be made in no more than 40 working days from the date of this email.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under s50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.