

**STATUTORY FUNERALS AND PROTECTION OF PROPERTY DUTIES PERFORMED BY LONDON BOROUGH OF SUTTON
UNDER S46 PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1984 and s48 NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948**

This spreadsheet will be updated at the beginning of each month with the preceding month's figures.

Today's date: 5 March 2024

Month of death	Location of home at time of death	Referral to Treasury Solicitor
Jan 2017	Carshalton	No
Jan 2017	Sutton	No
Jan 2017	Sutton	No
Feb 2017	Cheam	Yes
Feb 2017	Sutton	Yes
April 2017	Sutton	No
April 2017	Sutton	No
May 2017	Worcester Park	No
July 2017	Sutton	No
July 2017	Hackbridge	Yes
July 2017	Belmont	No
August 2017	Cheam	Yes
Sept 2017	Carshalton	No
Oct 2017	Streatham	No
Oct 2017	Carshalton	No
Nov 2017	Carshalton	Yes
Dec 2017	Morden	No
Dec 2017	Sutton	No
Dec 2017	Sutton	No
Dec 2017	Sutton	No
Jan 2018	Sutton	No
Jan 2018	Sutton	No
Feb 2018	Cheam	Yes
Feb 2018	Sutton	Yes
Feb 2018	Sutton	No

Mar 2018	Wallington	No
Mar 2018	Sutton	No
Apr 2018	Carshalton	No
Apr 2018	Carshalton	No
May 2018	Carshalton	No
May 2018	Carshalton	No
Aug 2018	Sutton	No
Sept 2018	Sutton	No
Sept 2018	Sutton	Yes
Dec 2018	Sutton	Yes
Dec 2018	Carshalton	No
Feb 2019	Wallington	Yes
Mar 2019	Wallington	Yes
Mar 2019	Sutton	No
Apr 2019	Sutton	Yes
Jun 2019	Sutton	Yes
Jun 19	Carshalton	Yes
July 19	Sutton	Yes
July 19	Sutton	No
Sept 19	Carshalton	No
Oct 19	Sutton	Yes
Nov 19	Carshalton	No
Dec 19	Carshalton	No
Jan 20	Worcester Park	No
Jan 20	Wallington	Yes
Mar 20	Wallington	No
Mar 20	Sutton	No
Mar 20	Wallington	No
Apr 20	Wallington	No
Apr 20	Carshalton	No
May 20	Sutton	No
Jun 20	Wallington	No

Jul 20	Morden	No
Oct 20	Sutton	No
Dec 20	Carshalton	Yes
Dec 20	Sutton	Yes
Dec 20	Sutton	No
Jan 21	Sutton	Yes
Mar 21	Sutton	No
Apr 21	North Cheam	No
Apr 21	Carshalton	No
Apr 21	Sutton	No
July 21	Wallington	No
August 21	Wallington	No
August 21	Sutton	No
Sept 21	Sutton	Yes
Nov 21	Sutton	Yes
Nov 21	Sutton	No
Nov 21	Sutton	No
Nov 21	Wallington	No
Dec 21	Sutton	No
Feb 22	Sutton	Yes
Jan 22	Sutton	No
Mar 22	Wallington	No
Mar 22	Sutton	No
Mar 22	Carshalton	No
Mar 22	Croydon	No
Mar 22	Carshalton	No
April 22	Sutton	No
Jun 22	Sutton	No
Jun 22	Sutton	No
Jun 22	Sutton	No
Aug 22	Wallington	No
Oct 22	Sutton	No

Nov 22	Sutton	Yes
Jan 23	Carshalton	Yes
March 23	Wallington	No
March 23	Sutton	No
March 23	Sutton	No
May 23	Wallington	Yes
May 23	Sutton	Yes
June 23	Sutton	Yes
June 23	Coulsdon	No
Sept 23	Sutton	No
Sept 23	Sutton	No
Sept 23	Sutton	Yes
Nov 23	Carshalton	Yes
Dec 23	Carshalton	No
Dec 23	Sutton	Yes
Dec 23	Carshalton	No
Jan 24	Carshalton	tba

Further detail cannot be provided e.g. the names and addresses of the deceased, date of death, estimated value of estate etc.

Under sections 21 and 31 of the Freedom of Information Act exemptions apply where disclosure would be likely to prejudice a range of investigations and conduct.

Section 21 – Information Reasonably Accessible to the Applicant by Another Means.

Information that the council holds on estates passed, or estates to be passed, to the Treasury Solicitor, is considered to be held on behalf of the Treasury Solicitor’s Department. Some details of the estate of those persons who have died and which have been passed to the Treasury

Solicitor can be accessed via the Treasury Solicitor's website (www.tsol.gov.uk) or via the bona vacantia website (www.bonavacantia.gov.uk).

Section 31 – Law Enforcement.

Revealing details of the assets of an estate before the Treasury Solicitor has undertaken their own enquiries would provide an opportunity for criminal acts to be committed (for example, theft or fraud). Similarly, there would be concerns about making the last known address of the deceased public, as the property is likely to be unoccupied and might still contain the deceased's personal papers and effects. There is also a continuing risk after the estate has been secured of, for example, identity theft.

Section 31 is a qualified exemption and as such the Local Authority is required to consider whether the public interest test is satisfied. The request seeks information which relates to existing and ongoing bona vacantia matters being dealt with by the Treasury Solicitor. The Local Authority considers that there may be a genuine public interest in being aware of a bona vacantia estate where the person is a relative, debtor or creditor of the deceased however this must be weighed against the possible distress to the deceased's family such disclosure could cause and the potential that such information could be used to either prevent the Treasury Solicitor from undertaking its statutory role or to perpetrate fraud or other criminal activities. In view of this the Local Authority has concluded that the public interest does not favour disclosure of the withheld information.

The Local Authority understands that this approach is consistent with that of the Treasury Solicitor in dealing with freedom of information requests concerning deceased individuals:

<http://www.bonavacantia.gov.uk/upload/Freedom%20of%20Information%20Requests%20Received%20by%20Public%20Authorities%20about%20Deceased%20Individuals.pdf>