



Queen's & Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer

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Dear

ESTATES FALLING TO THE CROWN

Thank you for your email of 17 October requesting information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Your request was in the following terms:

"Would like to request a list of estates fallen to the crown in Scotland, which seems to be unavailable from the website. In particular Murlaggan, Bohenie, Achnacoichan areas as this is my ancestry. Though there may not be unclaimed land, would estates fallen to the crown be for sale. May I please request any information on this under the freedom of information act?"

The Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer is the Crown's representative for *bona vacantia* (Latin for ownerless property) falling to the Crown in Scotland. There are various sources for that property but as you have referred to estates it is understood that you are asking about the estates of deceased persons - who might have owned land or buildings (ie heritable property) in the areas to which you have referred in your email - who have died with no will or known relatives which fall to the Crown as *ultimus haeres* (ultimus haeres estates). If however I have misunderstood that please let me know. In case of assistance, further information about the functions of the QLTR, and her policies, can be found on the QLTR's website to which I refer in the next paragraph.

Although the Crown Agent of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (to whom you sent your request) is also ex officio the QLTR, she now has a separate website for the QLTR matters so these are no longer found on the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal website. The QLTR website can be found at <http://www.qltr.gov.uk>.

Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we are not required to provide information in a response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. On the QLTR's website can be

found details of all potential ultimus haeres estates that are known to the QLTR and all ultimus haeres estates which are being administered by the QLTR or which have been administered by the QLTR and remain available for claim (since August 2003 other than for estates below £2000 which are only included where administration was completed after 31 March 2011). The information includes the deceased's last address – although that does not mean they will have owned the property as they may have been a tenant or might have been resident in a care home.

To find the lists with this information click the tab "Ultimus Haeres" then follow the links to the details under the menu on the left side of the screen.

Also on the website are estates reported to the National Ultimus Haeres Unit which are undergoing investigation to establish whether they might be an ultimus haeres estate which should be reported to the QLTR. To find the list with this information click the tab "National Ultimus Haeres Unit" then follow the link to the details under the menu on the left side of the screen.

We have searched our records for properties called Murlaggan, Bohenie or Achnacochan but have not been able to trace any information.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled, you do have the right to ask us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to The QLTR, Unit 5, 14a South St Andrew Street, Edinburgh EH2 2AZ, or for requests sent by e-mail to coqltr@copfs.gsi.gov.uk.

The review will be undertaken by staff not involved in the original decision making process.

If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, there is a right of appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner under section 47(1) of FOISA.

Should you subsequently wish to appeal against the Commissioner's decision on such an appeal, there is a right of appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.