SUMMARY OF FOI REQUESTS JAN-MARCH 2013 (TOTAL 123)

Category codes:

I (Individual no address/not WBC resident) IWB (individual WBC resident) C (campaign group) M (Media) O (Organisation)

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
Contract arrangements regarding recycling	Yes	Yes	Yes - HCC	0
Various information relating to no. of staff, sick leave, redundancies. grievances and disciplinaries	No	Yes	No	ı
Costs associated to chairman during last three years including salaried support staff, expenses and expenditure, and a breakdown of all costs.	Yes	Yes	No	M

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
Copy of the formal submission made to the Secretary of State along with the official response regarding allotments	Yes	Yes	No	I
Information relating to issue of parking permits and users in Woodford Rd	Yes	Yes	No	I
Vacant / empty / unoccupied residential and commercial properties within the Council area	No	Yes	No	I
Information relating to allotments including waiting lists	Yes	Yes	No	I
Information relating to street cleansing	Yes	Yes	No	I
Persons died with no next of kin	Yes	Yes	No	I

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
Persons died with no next of kin	Yes	Yes	No	I
Number of staff involved in fraud investigations and prosecutions	Yes	Yes	No	I
Current arrangements and budget for provision of training	Yes	Yes	No	0
Copies of all communication between the Mayor and Councillor regarding Health Campus and allotments	Yes	Yes – in part	No	M
Number of iphones and ipads purchased for staff	Yes	Yes - none	No	I
How many retrospective planning applications and illegal building work uncovered in last 5 years	Yes	Yes	No	0

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
Criteria for the recovery of PCN's	Yes	Yes	No	I
Commercial premises which are currently vacant and where the rateable value of the property exceeds £25,000	No	Yes	No	I
Ratepayers currently in receipt of discretionary or mandatory relief	No	Yes	No	0
NNDR accounts in credit	No	Yes	No	0
List of empty commercial properties	No	Yes	No	I
Last four years (2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13 to date) what was the average number of weeks it took to rehouse households on the council's waiting list.	Yes	No	No	I

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
Various information relating to bedroom tax and under occupation of households	No	Yes – in part	Herts Choice Homes	I
Have you used funds from the New Homes Bonus to fund or support housing development? How many homes (a) have been completed or (b) are under construction, have been funded in whole or part by the New Homes Bonus? Have you used funds from the New Homes Bonus to contribute towards the council's general fund?	Yes	Yes	No	I
Total gross sundry debt arrears for 2011/12 Total Bad Debt provision for 2011/12	Yes	Yes	No	I

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
In a recent press release from Watford council, Mayor Dorothy Thornhill stated that the council received 'a representative cross-section of views across all ages and all parts of the town' which made her feel confident to propose to build a further 600 homes behind Watford football ground in the area she calls the 'health campus'. Break down of the market research done for her to come to this conclusion:- What questions were asked - What areas of Watford did you ask these questions in - How many people in West Watford were questioned about this seeing as they will be the most effected - and finally A demographic break down of everyone questioned	Yes	No	No	

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Has the council paid RADA in Business (Royal Academy of Dramatic Art) for local authority training classes during the past four years?	Yes	Yes	No	I
Number of complaints/FOI requests last 3 years. Salary relating to Leader of the Council and Managing Director	Yes	Yes	No	I
Number of Section 106 Agreements agreed by your authority and the total amount of revenue collected from Section 106 Agreements for 2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10 2010/11, 2011/12 plus forecast 2012/13	Yes	Yes	No	M
Impact of bedroom tax and under occupation of properties	No	No	WCHT	I
Number of public health funerals	Yes	Yes	No	I

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
Persons died with no next of kin	Yes	Yes	No	I
Details relating to inspection carried out on a specific premises	Yes	Yes	No	I
Vehicles that have been towed away by the council in the last three years after they were abandoned.	Yes	Yes	No	I
If the Council has let one or more contracts for grounds maintenance services, street cleaning under the EU Procurement Directives, we request, for each contract, (a) the name of the successful contractor, (b) the value at which the contract was let and (c) the term of the contract, including any option to extend.	No	Yes	No	0

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
If the Council has procured grounds maintenance or street cleansing services within a wider multiservice contract under the EU Procurement Directives, then please provide details of (a) the service provider (b) which services are included in the contract and (c) the approximate value of the grounds maintenance and street cleansing packages.				
If the Council delivers grounds maintenance or street cleansing services through an in-house workforce, and prefers to deliver best value through this route, then please				

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inform us of this, and the approximate value of the grounds maintenance and street cleansing packages.				
Correspondence between the Council and the Department for Communities and Local Government regarding changes to land usage at Farm Terrace Allotments. period June 1st 2011 - present.	Yes	Yes – none	No	I

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
Fees paid to Lambert Smith Hampton Ltd by the Council or its subsidiary bodies for LSH's advisory role on the Environment & Planning Directorate as regards the development of allotment land, and what advice was supplied. period 1st April 2012 - 1st August 2012. Of particular interest is the meeting held June 14th 2012. Minutes of meeting	Yes	Yes	No	•
Hospitality and gifts registered on the Council's register by members of: a) the Environment & Planning Directorate b) the Strategic Management Group period June 1 2011 - present.	Yes	Yes	No	

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
Number of builders prosecuted over the last few years by the council	Yes	Yes – none	No	I
Is the council planning to make any changes (other than non-financial changes), to its Council Tax Benefit system under Council Tax Support from April 2013?	Yes	Yes – none	No	I
Information regarding playparks or parks with swings or play facilities.	Yes	Yes	No	I

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
How much money has your council spent on leisure centres, sports parks (like swimming pools / basketball courts etc) and fields between 2005-2013 How many leisure centres, sports parks and fields were there in your council area in the years from 2005-2013? How much has your council spent on sport overall in the years between 2005-2013?	Yes	No	No	I
1) A list of jobs, funded by the council during FY 2011/12, that primarily involve work relating to any of the following:- a) Climate change b) Mitigation of climate change c) Sustainable development d) Reducing CO2 emissions	No	Yes	No	

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
Complete suite of council financial services (transactional banking and investment), which provider(s) does the Council currently use, and how many individual accounts are held with each listed financial services provider? (2010/11 and 2011/12 financial years).	Yes	Yes	WBC website	0
How frequently are the various financial services procured, and when is the existing arrangement due to end (month/ year) - for each listed provider?				
 What was the average balance(s)/ cap on investment(s); of accounts held with each listed provider as at last audit? (for transactional & 				

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
investment banking).				
Please provide the				
specific procurement				
criteria and weighting that the council uses to				
assesses and procures financial services.				
ilitariciai services.				
Detail if, and how, the procurement criteria, weighting, and assessment process has been reviewed and modified, to give effect to Best Value Guidance and the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 to maximize public socio-				
economic value via procurement.				

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
Statement by Mayor re Health Campus including a copy of the financial business case that Watford Hospital, West Herts Hospitals NHS Trust, and/or their advisors have submitted to the Council and/or the Mayor. Included within this please provide me with the various options that have been considered for the proposed Health Campus, along with the financial and other analyses of each that demonstrate the costeffectiveness quoted.	Yes	Yes – in part	WBC website	
Cost of unauthorised Gypsy, Traveller or van dweller sites	No	Yes	No	I
Details about the use of powers of entry by officials from your council.	Yes	Yes	No	С

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
Contract with ThreeSixZero SPI Limited, confirm the start date of this contract, the end date and the monthly value	Yes	Yes	No	I
Do you generate revenue from advertising and sponsorship on council owned assets e.g. roundabouts, lamp post banners and car parks?	Yes	Yes	No	0
Number of weeks in a year that the council pays Housing Benefit to a full-year claimant (e.g. 52 weeks a year, 48 weeks a year etc) The number of vacant one-bedroom properties that currently exist	Yes	Yes	No	

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
Impact on households and availability of housing has your local authority identified as being subject to occupation and housing benefit reduction?	No	Yes – in part	No	I
Social housing and tenants affected by bedroom tax	No	Yes – in part	No	I
List of all fees and charges for the financial year 2013- 2014	Yes	Yes	No	I
Contract, spend & product details on the telecom services	No - unresolved			0

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
What percentage of local authority's total procurement budget is spent on goods and services from suppliers and providers in/outside the local authority area?	Yes	Yes	No	_
Names of liable parties, the dates they were liable and the dates of any periods that you have recorded property as being vacant between 1.4.2005 and 24.9.2007 when the property was taken out of rating. 3RD FLR 31-35, CLARENDON ROAD, WATFORD	Yes	Yes	No	0
Cuts to council tax benefits	No - unresolved			I

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
10% cut in the council tax benefit scheme and the "localisation" of council tax support schemes.	No	Yes	No	I
All properties within your Billing Authority area with a credit held on the account	No	Yes	Yes – WBC website	I
Public health funerals since 1st August 2012.	Yes	Yes	No	I
If in the last five years your authority has undertaken any enforcement action concerning breaches of the animal welfare act at licensed dog breeding premises.	Yes	Yes	No	0

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
How many cases of anti-social behaviour were recorded in each of the last three calendar years. (a) social housing - please differentiate between Council managed and arms length managed organisation (ALMO) (b) private rented housing. (c) in owner occupied housing.	Yes	Yes	No	I
Information relating to the procurement and maintenance of Tablet devices,	Yes	Yes	No	I
Details of anyone contracted for maintenance of pipework for water supply/heating	Yes	Yes	No	0

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
Address details of any property within your authority which does not have a current Display Energy Certificate as required by the EPBD regulations.	Yes	Yes	No	0
How many public space CCTV cameras have been in operation in the local authority area in each of these calendar years to date; (a) 2010 (b) 2011 (c) 2012 and (d) 2013	Yes	Yes	No	I
Copy of application to the Secretary of State for approval for the Farm Terrace Allotments to be deregulated as allotments.	Yes	Yes	No	I

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
How much did your Council spend on contract advertising in the OJEU (Office Journal of the European Union) for (a) supply and service and (b) works in each of the last five years.	Yes	Yes	No	I
How many non-british families are receiving council accommodation and/or housing benefits how many of these are European Union citizens.	Yes	No –not available	No	I
In April 2012 David Morris of the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) wrote to the Chief Executive of 100 local authorities offering a grant of £100,000 to be used to offset the impact of the rising level of vacant	Yes	Yes	No	I

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
premises in your town centre. Did your billing authority accept the grant? How much of that grant as a 31st January 2013 has been physically spent? Please provide a breakdown and summary of how that grant has been physically spent including date of payment, amount of payment and what exactly the payment was for. Provide details and evidence as to how your billing authority is benchmarking the success of the grant.				

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
Total transport budget for your council for 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13, and the projected transport budget for 2013/14? Total budget spent specifically on cycling in those same years, including a projected figure for 2013/14? Are there any innovative pro-cycling measures which have been taken recently by your council that The Times could highlight as an example of best-practice?	Yes	No	Yes - HCC	M
List of empty residential derelict properties	No	Yes	No	I

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
Statistics of people taken to court for unpaid council tax in your county every year between the years 2008-2012.	Yes	Yes	No	I
Details of the credits held on your records for ratepayers in respect of payment of business rates.	Yes	Yes	Yes – WBC website	0
Persons died no next of kin	Yes	Yes	No	I

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
What costs has the Council incurred as a result of having to tender in the OJEU, including consultancy, preparation and legal costs, in each of the last 5 complete fiscal years? What proportion of the Council?s contracts have you advertised within the OJEU in each of the last 5 complete fiscal years?	Yes	Yes	No	I
ICT contract(s) for Server Hardware Maintenance and Server Virtualisation	No - unresolved			I
How much has the council spent on legal fees in cases involving alleged libel, slander or other defamation against the council or individual members of staff or officers of the council?	No – requestor withdrawn			0

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
Copy of file for properties in Westland Rd	Yes	No – requested clarification – no response		I
Various information relating to posts dealing with Information Governance	Yes	Yes	No	I
Contract details for bailiffs	No - unresolved			I
Data relating to green space and Urban Green Space policy	Yes	No – due for future publication	WBC website	0
How much supported housing does the Local Authority currently operate or commission by individual property and, how many of these are monitored accommodation free from drugs and alcohol?	Yes	Yes	No	I

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
Information relating to premises with alcohol licences and staff employed for this purpose	Yes	Yes	No	I
Expenditure for printing and postage	Yes	Yes	No	I
Copy of minutes of meeting with developers regarding allotments	Yes	Yes	No	I
Various information on IT equipment including use of laptops/usb devices and data lost	No - unresolved			I
Number of iphones/ipads/Galaxy phones issues to staff and number of employees	Yes	Yes	No	I

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
All documents (emails, faxes, meeting minutes, telephone conversation transcripts, financial data, memo's) relating to the Local Authority decision to take part in the Land Registry Prototype scheme.	Yes	Yes	No	0
How many public health funerals since Nov 2012	Yes	Yes	No	I
How many public health funerals since Nov 2012	Yes	Yes	No	0
Information relating to Non Disclosure agreements issued following a redundancy payout in the past three years broken down by year - 2010, 2011, 2012	Yes	Yes	No	ı

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
Since 2003, payments by the council in settlement of equal pay claims or potential equal pay claims?	Yes	Yes	No	0
Providers of IT systems	No - unresolved			0
All Compulsory Purchase Orders which the council have conducted over the past 15 years. Account amounts, the properties involved and who is entitled to the money.	No	Yes	No	I

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
Any over-arching definition or methodology that registered social landlords have used in determining the number of bedrooms in social/affordable housing properties, for the purposes of assessing under-occupation of social/affordable housing with regards to the bedroom tax. Any forecast/estimate of the proportion (or failing that, number) of registered social landlord tenants in the council area who are affected by the bedroom tax who will fall into rent arrears in 2013/14.	Yes	Yes	No	I

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
Details of ownership relating to property in Market St which may have been purchased from the Council	Yes	Yes	Yes – Land Registry	I
Information about your authority's use of CCTV and CCTV smart cars to issue moving traffic contraventions and parking contraventions notices	Yes	Yes – none	No	С
Has Watford benchmarked its parking restrictions against other parts of the UK Are parking enforcement officials paid a bonus for placing more tickets on cars and what checks are in place to ensure they do not artificially inflate their numbers by placing tickets on cars when they are parked legally?	Yes			

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Properties included in the Schedule of Monuments compiled under section 1 of the above Act	Yes	Yes – none	No	0
Number of times between 1st January 2012 and 31st December 2012 that private bailiffs have been instructed to enforce debts owed to the local authority by a) individuals living at residential properties and b) businesses in this local authority.	No	Yes	No	0
Details regarding licensed scrap metal dealers	Yes	Yes	No	0
How much money was raised from traffic fines in Watford in 2011 and 2013?	Yes	Yes	No	0

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
Copies of disciplinary and redundancy policies	Yes	Yes	No	I
All correspondence, meeting notes and agendas relating to the preparation of the Council's submission to the Department for Communities and Local Government to remove the statutory allotment land known as Farm Terrace Allotments.	No	Yes – in part	No	I
Arrears and write offs relating to Council Tax, Housing Benefit, NNDR and parking fines	No	Yes	No	ı
Details of domestic boiler installations since 2009	Yes	Yes	No	0

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
Details regarding planning application within which S106 applications renegotiated	Yes	Yes	No	I
Copies LAE1 return documents submitted	Yes	Yes	No	I
Persons died with no next of kin	No	Yes	No	I
Information relating to benefit fraud in last 5 years	No	Yes	No	I
Information relating to current Intranet and plans for future implementation	No - unresolved			I
Information relating to current printers/scanners/copie rs and other IT software	Yes	Yes	No	I

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
The Kit Campbell Associates Report 'Rethinking Open Space' whichwas used in the Watford audit. The full Consultants report who were commissioned to audit over 184 green spaces sites in Watford in Autumn 2012, to record scores for the quality and value of a variety of site characteristics.	Yes	Yes	No	I
Primates licenses issued under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976	Yes	Yes	No	С

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
For each of the past five financial years, total number of employees who have returned to work for the authority in a new position having previously been made redundant. Amount paid as redundancy and the period of time elapsed between the redundancy and the employees return	Yes	Yes – none	No	
Information in relation to the provision of ipads or similar tablet devices to Councillors.	No - unresolved			_
Number and breakdown of page views that the Council website has had in the last year	No - unresolved			ı

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
Details of contract agreements for electricity and gas	Yes	No – cost	No	I
information on non- self-drive cars owned or leased by your council (ie cars owned or leased for the purpose of driving/chauffeuring elected members and/or council staff).	Yes	Yes – none	No	I
Information regarding DHP and affects of new legislation regarding bedroom tax on existing tenants/homeless applications	Yes	Yes	No	0
Details and costs relating to mobile phone contracts	Yes	Yes	No	I

REASON FOR REQUEST	RESPONDED WITHIN TIMESCALE?	INFORMATION PROVIDED?	CUSTOMER ADVISED ON ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF INFORMATION	CAT
All FOI requests and responses that have been made in relation to Business Rates (credits, Empty properties, SBRR, reliefs since 2005	Yes	Yes – in part	No	0
Persons died with no next of kin	Yes	Yes	No	I