

GRO – Civil Registration – Digital Images

The GRO has initiated a new service of providing digital images of certain birth and death records that you can download instantly from their website as a digital image. This service is faster and less expensive than the two previously available services of mailed certified copies of certificates and downloadable PDF copies of uncertified certificates.

This new service applies only to birth and death records within certain date ranges and excludes all marriage records at this time. The dates ranges for what is available through this service are:

Births: 1837 – 1922

Deaths: 1837 – 1887

To order a digital image you should first do a search for your civil registration record information on the FreeBMD website and have those details readily available before ordering your GRO digital image. You will need to insert those details in the GRO order form to be sure that you get the record for the correct individual. Here is an example of a birth record provided by GRO as a digital image:

Third	William	Boy	William	Nelie	Flint	Flint	Helen	Flint	Fourth	Flint
1 July	James		Flint	Flint	Flint	Domestic	Mother	Flint	August	Flint
1873			formerly	Domestic	Domestic	Servant	Hartley	Hartley	1873	Registration

As you can see it is a very plain rendition of the record image without the column headings that appear on the printed version of the certificate. However, if you only need the record image for your research files, and you are familiar with the certificate forms, this kind of image will likely meet your needs.

The following information describes the ordering process and illustrates some of the forms and webpages on the GRO website involved in ordering these images. The cost is £2.50 per image (less than \$3.50 depending on the current exchange rate) and you can order using a credit card.

Go to the GRO website: <https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/login.asp> to register for an account or login if you already have one from previous orders. After logging in to your account you need to select your order type.

To order a digital image of your birth or death record, select this page to proceed.

Click on the link for that page.

What would you like to do?

 Order a Certificate or PDF Enter your details or a GRO Reference to order: - A paper certificate that can be used for identification or official purposes - A PDF copy of a record, not for official use	 Search the GRO Indexes Search the indexes to identify the record you want. You can order a Certificate, PDF or Digital Image.
 Order a Digital Image Search the indexes to find a record and click through to purchase an image. Digital Images are only available for Births 1837-1922 and Deaths 1837-1887.	 Find out more about What we do and what records we hold. Researching your family history and how to get the most out of the GRO records.
 View recent orders Check details and progress of your recent orders. View and download your PDFs or Digital Images.	 Check or update my details Update contact and account details.
 Contact GRO Online, by Email, Telephone or Post.	 Visit GOV.UK For information on birth, marriage, civil partnership, death, adoption and stillbirth records and registrations.

On the new page select your preference for birth or death record:

Search the GRO Online Indexes

Which index would you like to search?
Events registered in England or Wales.

Birth Death

This example will continue with ordering a **birth** record.

After making your selection, enter the year; click on the down arrow in the "Select" box and scroll down to your year.

Search the GRO Online Indexes

Which index would you like to search?
Events registered in England or Wales:

Birth Death

When was the birth registered?

Year: *  Select  +/- 0  year(s) 

The next form is the work page where you enter all the details for your search of the GRO Indexes to locate the correct record for your individual.

This is the step where you will need the details from your previous FreeBMD search for your certificate. You should have the name of the registration district, the volume and page number for your record, and the Quarter in the year your event was registered. These details would be part of the search results in your FreeBMD search.

Search the GRO Online Indexes

Which index would you like to search?
Events registered in England or Wales:

Birth Death

When was the birth registered?
Year: * +/- year(s) [?](#)

Please enter your search criteria, mandatory fields are indicated with a *
Up to 250 matching results will be returned so providing any additional information you know will help locate the registration you are looking for.

Who are you searching for?

Surname at Birth: * [?](#) Include: [?](#)

Search for records with a matching surname

First Forename: [?](#) Include: [?](#)

Search for records with a matching first forename

Second Forename: [?](#)

Sex: * [?](#)

Mother's Maiden Surname: [?](#) Include: [?](#)

Search for records with a matching Mother's Maiden Surname

Where was the birth registered?

District of Birth: [?](#)

Do you already know any GRO Reference details for the registration?

Quarter: [?](#)

Volume: [?](#) Page: [?](#)

[Search](#) [Reset](#)

After entering your details, click "Search" to find your record in the GRO Indexes with the search parameters you specified.

The top section of the Results page describes the various options and costs for ordering copies of records.

If you entered the details for your record correctly, the Results should return the record you want.

Results: 1

Select the button by an individual result to see ordering options available for that record.

Certificate

- Paper copy of a record that can be used for official identification
- Standard Service £11 is dispatched 4 working days after we receive your application
- Priority Service £35 is dispatched on or before the next working day

PDF

- Electronic copy of a record that can not be used for official identification
- Cost £7 and can be download using 'My Orders' 4 working days after we receive your application
- Available in 'My Orders' for 3 months after date of purchase

Digital Image (JPEG)

- Image of a record that can not be used for official identification e.g. if applying for a passport, driving licence, or where required to give notice of marriage
- Cost £2.50. Image available to view once payment is complete and a link to the image is provided on the order confirmation screen
- Available in 'My Orders' for 3 months after date of purchase
- Not all records are available to view as Digital Images, however the record you are searching for may be available as a PDF or certificate.

Name:

Mother's Maiden

Surname:

BARRATT

GRO Reference: 1873 S Quarter in HARTLEY WINTNEY Volume 02C Page 164

1 Record(s) Found - Showing Page 1 of 1

Go to page [1](#)

Noticed a problem with a record in the GRO Indexes?

You can [report it to GRO](#) and help us improve the quality of information available.

Click the button next to your record description to select your order.

Name:

Mother's Maiden

Surname:

BARRATT

FLINT, WILLIAM JAMES

GRO Reference: 1873 S Quarter in HARTLEY WINTNEY Volume 02C Page 164

Order this entry as a: [Certificate](#) [PDF](#) [Digital Image](#)

This version of the search results shows more detail for this birth record, including the mother's maiden name. If you have that detail from your research, this allows you to make one more check to determine if you have the record for the correct individual.

The next form provides verification of the record details for your search as one more check before placing your order.

Details of the person in the entry required	
Year birth was registered	1873
Surname at birth *	FLINT
Forename(s) *	WILLIAM JAMES
Reference information from GRO Index	
Year	1873
Quarter*	July, Aug, Sept
District name*	HARTLEY WINTNEY
Volume Number*	02C
Page Number*	164

On the lower part of this form you will select the type of record you want –

in this case a digital image at a cost of £2.50 sent by their standard method, which is a downloadable image file.

After you pay for the record, you will receive email confirmation of your payment and instructions to obtain your digital image.

Click on the “Submit” button at the bottom of the form to place your order.

Service Options	
Please choose the item type, service and delivery method you require:	
Digital Image of the entry	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Standard - £2.50 Image available to view once payment is complete and a link to the image is provided on the order confirmation screen. (Image also available to view via My Orders page for 3 months).
Delivery Method:	The Digital Image is not a formal certificate and cannot be used for official identification purposes e.g. if applying for a passport, driving licence, or where required to give notice of marriage For guidance on the quality of a digital image, please refer to the FAQ's Not all records are available to view as Digital Images, however the record you are searching for may be available as a PDF or certificate.
Certificate	<input type="radio"/> Standard - £11.00, despatched on the 4th working day from receipt of order. <input type="radio"/> Priority - £35.00, despatched next working day from receipt of order.
Delivery Method:	Post
PDF copy of the entry	<input type="radio"/> Standard - £7.00, despatched on the 4th working day from receipt of order. Uploaded to be viewed via My Orders page (deleted after 3 months)

I confirm that I have read and understand the above text regarding the digital image service and wish to proceed with my application.

[Submit](#) [Back](#)

The final form is this “basket summary” with all your order details before you go to the payment page.

Basket Summary

The table below contains summary details of all applications currently in your basket.

Each row in the table represents an individual application.

Please use the buttons at the bottom of the table to ‘checkout’ or to continue with your order. The buttons to the right of each application row can be used to delete or edit an individual application.

If you wish to assign a reference number to the order then please enter this at the top of the form and click the button marked ‘Set Ref’ to do so.

Order Reference **Set Ref**

Name	Item Type	Quantity	Delivery Method	Despatch Date (Est)	Customer Ref	Price	Actions	
WILLIAM JAMES FLINT	E/W Birth Digital Image	1	View Image Online	08 Jul 2023		£2.50	Edit	Delete

Year	Qtr	District	Vol	Page	Reg	Ent No	DOR
1873	Sept	HARTLEY WINTNEY	02C	164			

Shipping Method Summary		
Shipping Method	Quantity	Total
View Image Online	1 at £0.00	£0.00
Shipping Total:		£0.00

Order Total: £2.50

Please note: Delivery time should be added to the stated despatch date to calculate when your order should reach you.

Continue to payment

When your order is completed, you will receive an email with instructions for how to get your image.

You will go to the “My Orders” section of the GRO website and complete this form, entering the details for your order in the boxes provided.

My Recent Order Details

Please enter the COL Number of a specific order or start and end dates for the period you wish to view:

Please ensure that you download your PDF/Digital Image copy of an entry to your device within 3 months from notification that your order is placed. To download your PDF click on the View PDF button. Select “File” and “Save as” and save to a folder on your device. To view a Digital Image click on the link under the Item Type heading, the fourth button on the tool bar allows you to download a copy of the image.

Orders are only retained on the online ordering system for three months after which they are deleted, including any PDF documents or Online View digital images attached to the order.

COL Number: COL /

Start Date: End Date: **Search**

Enter the COL number and year; then enter the date range for the time period of your order. Click “Search” to get access to your image for downloading.

This form allows you to download the digital image you ordered. Click on the [link](#) below the “Item Type” heading to access the image.

Order Reference Number: COL185718/2023		Order Submitted: 08 Jul 2023 17:37		
Your Reference:		Order Amount: £2.50		
Name(s)	Item Type	Qty	Price	Your Reference
FLINT, WILLIAM JAMES	E/W Birth Digital Image	1	£2.50	10 Jul 2023
				View Details

Right click on the image to copy it, or preferably to save it in your computer before it is deleted from the GRO website and you no longer have access to the image you paid for. Here is the saved image of this record:

1	Third July 1873 Hartley Wintney	William James	Boy	William Flint	Helen Flint formerly Barnett	coachman domestic servant	Helen Flint Mother Hartley Wintney	Fourth August 1873	Sp. Flint Registers	
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SOCCGS England SIG

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