

# GRO increases prices of birth, marriage and death records

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The General Register Office (GRO), which holds civil birth, marriage and death records for England and Wales, has increased the price of the records.

The GRO holds records from 1837, when civil registration was introduced. They are an important resource for family historians.

Previously, the prices were:

- £2.50 for a digital image (available to download instantly for births from 1837 to 1922 and deaths from 1837 to 1957).

- £7 for a PDF (available for births from 1837 to 1934 and 1984 to 2021 and deaths from 1837 to 1957 and 1984 to 2021, takes up to four working days to despatch).
- £11 for a print certificate with an index reference (includes all marriage certificates). • £14 for a print certificate without an index reference.

The new prices are:

- £3 for a digital image.
- £8 for a PDF.
- £12.50 for a print certificate with an index reference.
- £16 for a print certificate without an index reference.

# News

**Rosemary Collins**  
reports on data releases  
and genealogy news

Thirteenth July 1955 / H.M. Prison Holloway N.7.	Ruth ELLIS	Female 28 years	a Club Manageress of - Egerton Gardens Kensington London	Injuries to the central nervous system consequent upon judicial hanging P.M.	Certificate received from J. Milner Helme Coroner for the City of London Inquest held 13th July 1955	Fourteenth July	Doris E. Stanley
Eleventh January 1928 405/ Mac Gate Dorchester H.D.	Thomas Hardy	Male 89	O.M. Poet and Novelist	1a, Cardiac Syncope 6b, Old Age No O.D. Certified by E. W. Mann M.B.	Eva Dugdale Garter in Law Present at the death River Front Enfield Middlesex	Twelfth January 1928	Mandell Registrar.

## GRO expands death-record access

The General Register Office (GRO) has improved access to civil death records via its online view service.

The GRO holds the civil birth, marriage and death records for England and Wales, and birth records from 1837–1934 and 1984–2021 and death records from 1837–1957 and 1984–2021 are indexed on its website ([www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/](http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/)).

Previously, the cheapest way to access them was as PDFs, available for £7, which took up to four working days to be delivered.

In July, the GRO made birth records from 1837–1922 and death records from 1837–1887 available as digital

images, which cost £2.50 and can be downloaded immediately.

Access to death records has now been expanded to include records dating from 1888–1957.

This allows family researchers to view ancestors' deaths more cheaply, as well as the deaths of notable figures.

For example, the new instant-access records include the deaths of novelist Thomas Hardy in 1928 and Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged in the UK, in 1955 (*both records pictured above*).

A 2020 impact assessment by the Home Office, which runs the GRO ([www.legislation.gov.uk/ukia/2020/64/pdfs/ukia\\_20200064\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukia/2020/64/pdfs/ukia_20200064_en.pdf)), said that

the Government's preferred option for GRO records was to "Introduce an online view (OV) service". Digitising GRO records was estimated to cost £43 million over 10 years, and the assessment added, "It is envisaged that as more records are digitised, the PDF service will be eventually replaced by the online view service."

The Home Office has also now issued a tender for scanning and transcription services at the GRO at a cost of £38 million ([www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/010142-2023](http://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/010142-2023)). However, a Home Office spokesperson said, "There are no plans at this time to extend the years available to this service or PDFs."