WalletLegacy

Executor Kit

The estate of Margaret Ellis

Date of death	Crypto found	Prepared by
14 May 2026	£43,614	Daniel Ellis

This kit contains no recovery phrases, passwords or keys. Keep it private: it records where crypto may be found.

Executor Kit · Estate of Margaret Ellis

Died 14 May 2026 · Executor: Daniel Ellis · worked out on this device

No wallets connected | No phrases or keys

Value at date of death	Found	Released to the estate	Next deadline	Places checked	Can't be accessed
£43,614	4	1/4	60 days	25/34	0
All values found	3 exchange accounts	£1,640	Inheritance Tax due, 30 Nov 2026	9 to go	None so far

Claims progress



Value at date of death

Ledger Nano S	Found, not contacted yet	£21,244
Coinbase	Documents sent	£18,420
Kraken	Contacted	£2,310
Revolut (crypto)	Released to the estate	£1,640

Total at date of death **£43,614**

Where you've looked

Bank and card statements	12/12
Their email	4/6
Phone and computer	3/6
Around the home	3/5
Paperwork and people	3/5

Next steps

1. Plan how to pay about £41,845 Inheritance Tax by 30 Nov 2026
2. Keep the Ledger Nano S safe and ask the solicitor how to recover it
3. Send Kraken the documents they ask for
4. Send the search letter to Gemini
5. Check 9 more places for crypto
6. Give the values table to the solicitor or HMRC

1 About the estate

Full name of the person who died

Margaret Ellis

Date of death

14 May 2026

Your name

Daniel Ellis

Your role

Executor

Solicitor dealing with the estate (optional)

Hart & Lowe Solicitors

2 Before you start

- ✓ Don't move, sell or send any crypto until you have the grant of probate or letters of administration, unless a solicitor tells you otherwise.
- ✓ Keep devices, notebooks and anything with words written on it safe, together and private. Don't photograph or type out a recovery phrase.
- ✓ Don't sign in to their accounts as them. Use each company's bereavement process instead.
- ✓ Write down the date of death. Every value for HMRC is worked out on that date.

⚠ Grieving families are targeted by crypto scams. Nobody genuine, including us, will ever ask for a recovery phrase or a fee to "release" crypto.

3 Where to look

Tick each place once you've checked it. 25 of 34 checked.

Bank and card statements

Payments to or from these names usually mean an account exists. Look back several years.

- [x] ~~Coinbase~~
- [x] ~~Kraken~~
- [x] ~~Binance~~
- [x] ~~Crypto.com~~
- [x] ~~Revolut (crypto)~~
- [x] ~~eToro~~
- [x] ~~Gemini~~
- [x] ~~Bitstamp~~
- [x] ~~Uphold~~
- [x] ~~Bitpanda~~
- [x] ~~Moonpay or Ramp (card payments for crypto)~~
- [x] ~~PayPal (crypto)~~

Their email

If you can lawfully get into their email, search for these words. Exchange receipts and sign-in alerts often arrive here.

- [x] ~~"Coinbase", "Kraken", "Binance" and other names above~~
- [x] ~~"wallet", "seed", "recovery phrase"~~
- [x] ~~"deposit confirmed" or "withdrawal"~~
- [x] ~~"Ledger", "Trezor" (hardware wallet orders)~~
- [ ] "verification code" or "new sign-in"
- [ ] "BTC", "ETH", "bitcoin"

Phone and computer

Look at the apps installed. Don't try to sign in as them or reset passwords.

- ~~Exchange apps (Coinbase, Kraken, Binance, Revolut)~~
- ~~Wallet apps (MetaMask, Trust Wallet, Exodus, Phantom)~~
- ~~Ledger Live or Trezor Suite~~
- Authenticator apps (Google Authenticator, Authy, Microsoft Authenticator)
- Browser extensions on the computer
- Password manager entries

Around the home

Hardware wallets look like USB sticks or small calculators. Keep anything you find safe and together.

- ~~Hardware wallets (Ledger, Trezor and similar)~~
- ~~Notebooks or cards with 12 or 24 words~~
- ~~Metal plates or capsules stamped with words~~
- Home safe or locked drawers
- Bank safety deposit box

Paperwork and people

Others may know more than you think.

- ~~Their will and any letter of wishes~~
- ~~Tax returns mentioning crypto gains~~
- ~~Their accountant or financial adviser~~
- Their solicitor
- Close friends who talked about crypto with them

4 Ask the companies directly

You don't need their passwords, phone or two-factor codes, and you shouldn't try to sign in as them. Exchanges have bereavement teams that will search their records for you, freeze any account they find and release it to the estate. Tick each company

to ask and we'll write a search letter for each one. It's normal to ask several, even if you've found nothing yet.

Details they search with

Their date of birth

12 June 1958

Their mobile number

07700 900123

Their last address

14 Orchard Way, Harrogate HG1 2AB

Email addresses they used

margaret.ellis@example.com, mags.ellis58@example.com

Coinbase	They have an account
Kraken	They have an account
Revolut	They have an account
Binance	No account found
Crypto.com	Letter sent
Gemini	Not asked yet

Your search letter to Gemini

1 October 2026

To the bereavement or estates team at Gemini

Re: Margaret Ellis, who died on 14 May 2026. Request to search for an account

I am writing as the executor of the estate of Margaret Ellis. I believe they may have held an account with you, and I would be grateful if you would search your records using the details below and tell me whether they did.

Full name: Margaret Ellis
Date of birth: 12 June 1958
Last address: 14 Orchard Way, Harrogate HG1 2AB
Email addresses they used: margaret.ellis@example.com, mags.ellis58@example.com
Mobile number: 07700 900123

If you find an account, please freeze it so that nothing can be withdrawn, send me a statement of everything it held on 14 May 2026, valued in pounds sterling if possible, and tell me what you need to release it to the estate.

I enclose a certified copy of the death certificate and proof of my identity, and I can send the grant of probate or letters of administration when you need it. If you find no account, a short reply saying so would help me close this part of the estate.

Please reply in writing to the address or email below. I will not share any passwords or recovery phrases, and I understand you will never ask for them.

Yours faithfully,

Daniel Ellis
Executor of the estate of Margaret Ellis

Getting into their email, phone and records lawfully

- Google (Gmail): if they set up Inactive Account Manager, the person they chose gets their data. Otherwise use Google's form for a deceased user's account. Google won't give out the password, but may send some data from the account.
- Apple (iCloud): if they added you as a Legacy Contact, use the access key with their death certificate. Without one, Apple usually needs a court order to share data.
- Microsoft (Outlook, Hotmail) and Yahoo: contact their support about a deceased user's account. Each has its own process, and they won't give out passwords.

- Their phone: keep it, its charger and the SIM contract going for now. Exchanges often recognise an account by its mobile number, and the phone shows which apps were installed.
- Their accountant and HMRC: tax returns that mention crypto gains name the exchanges used. As executor you can ask their accountant for copies, or ask HMRC about their tax affairs.
- Crypto tax software: reports from Koinly, CoinTracker or Recap list every exchange and wallet they linked. Look for exports in their email or files.
- One address leads to more: once you have a wallet's public address, its history on a block explorer often shows payments to and from an exchange, which tells you who to ask.

Wallets they kept themselves, in a phone app, on a hardware wallet or as written-down words, aren't registered with any company, so no one can search for them. Only the device, the recovery phrase or a public address leads to them, which is why step 3 matters.

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5 What you've found

Add each account, wallet or device. For a wallet, paste its public address (it usually starts with 1, 3, bc1 or 0x) and we'll read what's in it. Never paste a recovery phrase.

Exchange or app account

Coinbase

Value at date of death

£18,420

margaret.ellis@example.com

Value on the statement for the date of death, in pounds	18420

Hardware wallet or device

Ledger Nano S

Value at date of death

£21,244

Found in the desk drawer, recovery card sealed in an envelope

BTC	0.42	50580

Exchange or app account

Kraken

Value at date of death

£2,310

Payments on her Barclays statements

ETH	1.2	1925

Exchange or app account

Revolut (crypto)

Value at date of death

£1,640

Revolut app on her phone

Value on the statement for the date of death, in pounds	1640

6 Claiming each account

Exchanges have a bereavement process. You'll usually need:

- ✓ Death certificate (an official copy, not a photocopy)
- ✓ Grant of probate, or letters of administration if there's no will
- ✓ Your photo ID and proof of address
- ✓ The will, if the company asks for it
- ✓ A letter from you as executor with instructions (below)

Found an account but can't get in?

- Found the app but it's locked, or it asks for a code: don't try to sign in or reset the password. You don't need their password, phone or two-factor codes. The bereavement team releases the account to the estate once they have the death certificate and the grant of probate.
- Only know the email or a payment on a statement: that's enough. Send the letter below with the email address or the statement line as the reference.
- Ask for the full transaction history, not just the balance. If crypto was sent out to a wallet, the history shows the wallet's public address. Add it in step 5 and we'll read what it still holds.

- The account is empty or closed: the history still shows where the crypto went, and when. Keep the company's reply for the solicitor and HMRC.
- The company has gone bust (FTX and Celsius are examples): claims go through the administrator's own claims process, not the exchange. Ask the solicitor before filling anything in.
- No reply after 28 days: chase in writing, keep copies of everything you send, and use recorded post for paper letters. Most crypto firms aren't covered by the Financial Ombudsman, so a solicitor's letter is the next step.
- They release the crypto: have it sold into pounds or sent to an account controlled by the estate, never to your own wallet, and keep a record of the date and value.

Claim steps and your letters

Coinbase Documents sent

1. Sign in to (or create) your own Coinbase account, then find the Executor Services form in Coinbase Help (search "claim a decedent's account").
2. Upload: the death certificate, the grant of probate or letters of administration, photo ID for everyone named on it, and a signed letter telling Coinbase where to transfer the assets.
3. Follow Coinbase's verification steps. They will confirm the account balance and transfer it as instructed.

Source: Coinbase's help page. Processes change, so check it first.

Your letter to Coinbase

1 October 2026

To the bereavement or estates team at Coinbase

Re: the account of Margaret Ellis, who died on 14 May 2026 (account reference or email: margaret.ellis@example.com)

I am writing as the executor of the estate of Margaret Ellis. Please accept this letter as notice of their death.

Please freeze the account so that nothing can be withdrawn, and send me a statement showing the balance of every cryptoasset and any cash held on 14 May 2026, valued in pounds sterling if possible, and a full transaction history for the account. I need these to report the estate to HMRC.

Please also tell me what you need to release the account to the estate. I enclose or can provide: a certified copy of the death certificate, the grant of probate or letters of administration, and proof of my identity and address.

Please reply in writing to the address or email below. I will not share any passwords or recovery phrases, and I understand you will never ask for them.

Yours faithfully,

Daniel Ellis
Executor of the estate of Margaret Ellis

Kraken Contacted

1. Open Kraken's support site and search "deceased client account claims" to find the claim form.
2. Attach: a full colour image of the official death certificate (not a funeral home certificate), the grant of probate or letters of administration, your current photo ID, and a signed letter from you as executor confirming the death.
3. Submit the form. Kraken's compliance team will contact you and may ask for more documents.

Source: Kraken's help page. Processes change, so check it first.

Your letter to Kraken

1 October 2026

To the bereavement or estates team at Kraken

Re: the account of Margaret Ellis, who died on 14 May 2026 (account reference or email: Payments on her Barclays statements)

I am writing as the executor of the estate of Margaret Ellis. Please accept this letter as notice of their death.

Please freeze the account so that nothing can be withdrawn, and send me a statement showing the balance of every cryptoasset and any cash held on 14 May 2026, valued in pounds sterling if possible, and a full transaction history for the account. I need these to report the estate to HMRC.

Please also tell me what you need to release the account to the estate. I enclose or can provide: a certified copy of the death certificate, the grant of probate or letters of administration, and proof of my identity and address.

Please reply in writing to the address or email below. I will not share any passwords or recovery phrases, and I understand you will never ask for them.

Yours faithfully,

Daniel Ellis
Executor of the estate of Margaret Ellis

Revolut (crypto) **Released to the estate**

1. Email bereavement@revolut.com with the deceased's full name, date of birth, phone number and email, and your relationship to them.
2. Send: your photo ID, the death certificate, the grant of probate or letters of administration, and Revolut's signed bereavement or indemnity form.
3. Revolut sells any crypto and pays the value in pounds, so the amount is fixed on the day they sell. Note that date for your records.

Source: Revolut's help page. Processes change, so check it first.

Your letter to Revolut (crypto)

1 October 2026

To the bereavement or estates team at Revolut (crypto)

Re: the account of Margaret Ellis, who died on 14 May 2026 (account reference or email: Revolut app on her phone)

I am writing as the executor of the estate of Margaret Ellis. Please accept this letter as notice of their death.

Please freeze the account so that nothing can be withdrawn, and send me a statement showing the balance of every cryptoasset and any cash held on 14 May 2026, valued in pounds sterling if possible, and a full transaction history for the account. I need these to report the estate to HMRC.

Please also tell me what you need to release the account to the estate. I enclose or can provide: a certified copy of the death certificate, the grant of probate or letters of administration, and proof of my identity and address.

Please reply in writing to the address or email below. I will not share any passwords or recovery phrases, and I understand you will never ask for them.

Yours faithfully,

Daniel Ellis
Executor of the estate of Margaret Ellis

7 Values for HMRC

HMRC needs each holding's value in pounds on the date of death. Wallet prices are looked up for that day; exchange values come from the statement you ask for.

Holding	What	Price at date of death	Value
Coinbase	From the statement	–	£18,420
Ledger Nano S	0.42 BTC	BTC £50,580	£21,244
Kraken	1.2 ETH	ETH £1,925	£2,310
Total crypto at date of death			**£43,614**

Holding	What	Price at date of death	Value
Revolut (crypto)	From the statement	–	£1,640

Total crypto at date of death £43,614

- HMRC treats crypto like any other asset in the estate. It needs each holding's value in pounds on the date of death, not the value when you sell it.
- There's no official exchange rate for crypto. Use a sensible source and use the same one for every holding: the exchange's own statement for exchange accounts, or a price site's historical data (such as CoinGecko or CoinMarketCap) for wallets.
- Keep a record of how you got each figure: a screenshot or download showing the date, the price and where it came from. HMRC asks for the method to be kept.
- Include the total when you report the estate's value to HMRC. If a full Inheritance Tax account (form IHT400) is needed, crypto goes in with the other assets.
- If you can't get into a wallet, still report it. HMRC asks you to explain why it's inaccessible and what you believe it's worth, in the additional information box of the IHT400.
- If the estate later sells crypto for more than its date-of-death value, there may be Capital Gains Tax on the increase. A solicitor or accountant can advise.

Want to check whether the estate owes Inheritance Tax? Try our free calculator.

8 The estate at a glance

Worked out from what you've entered so far. It updates as you go.

Key dates

19 May 2026	**Register the death** Within 5 days in England and Wales, 8 days in Scotland.	Passed
30 November 2026	**Inheritance Tax due** By the end of the sixth month after the death. HMRC charges interest after this, so many estates pay on account first.	60 days left
14 May 2027	**Inheritance Tax account (IHT400) due** Within 12 months of the death, if a full account is needed.	225 days left

5 April 2029

Estate's last £3,000 Capital Gains allowance — 917 days left

The estate gets an annual allowance for the tax year of death and the next two. Gains after that are taxed in full.

In April to June 2026, a grant of probate took about 5 weeks on average from application, but 14 weeks when the application was stopped for more information. Letters of administration took about 10 weeks. Ministry of Justice, Family Court Statistics, 2026

What the crypto is made of

BTC	**49%**	£21,244
Exchange balances (from statements)	**46%**	£20,060
ETH	**5%**	£2,310

Since the date of death

On the date of death	Today (1 October 2026)	Change
£23,554	£29,940	+£6,386 +27.1%

- **BTC** £50,580 then, £64,200 now +26.9%
- **ETH** £1,925 then, £2,480 now +28.8%

If the estate sold these coins today, the gain since the death would be about **£6,386**. After the estate's £3,000 allowance, Capital Gains Tax at 24% would be about **£813**. Passing the coins to the people who inherit, instead of selling, moves any later gain to them.

2 holdings are valued from a statement or has no price, so aren't included here.

Executors pay 24% Capital Gains Tax on gains the estate makes after the death, after an annual exempt amount of £3,000 for the tax year of death and each of the next two. HMRC, HS282 (2026)

Does the estate owe Inheritance Tax?

Add rough values for the rest of the estate to see whether it's over the tax-free limits, and how much of any bill comes from the crypto.

Their home, if they owned it

465000

Savings and investments

88000

Everything else (car, belongings, pensions from April 2027)

12000

Debts, mortgage and funeral costs

4000

Their home goes to their children or grandchildren

Estate after debts	Tax-free allowances	Estimated Inheritance Tax	Of which from the crypto
£604,614	£500,000	£41,845	£2,999

The estate is about £104,614 over its tax-free allowances. Crypto is 7% of the estate, so it adds about £2,999 to the bill. The tax is due by 30 November 2026, and HMRC wants it paid before the crypto has usually been released, so plan how to pay it.

How thorough the search has been

71% thorough. 25 of 34 places checked, 6 companies asked, 4 replied and 3 confirmed an account. Checking the remaining places and asking the main exchanges is the best way to be sure nothing is missed.

Rough figures to help you plan, not a tax calculation. Rules from GOV.UK and HMRC, checked October 2026. A solicitor or accountant can confirm the figures for the estate.

9 If you find a recovery phrase

- ✓ Keep it sealed and private, and don't photograph it or type it into anything to "check" it.
- ✓ Whoever holds the phrase controls the crypto, so treat it like cash in an envelope.
- ✓ Wait until you have the legal right to deal with the estate, then use the official wallet app or a new hardware wallet bought direct from the maker to restore it, ideally with a solicitor's help.
- ✓ Move the crypto to an account controlled by the estate, not your own personal wallet, and keep a record of every step.

10 Tax for the people who inherit

- There's no Capital Gains Tax when someone dies. Any rise in value up to the date of death is wiped out for tax purposes.
- For the people who inherit, the value on the date of death becomes their starting cost. When they sell later, they only pay Capital Gains Tax on any rise after that date, and only above their yearly tax-free allowance.
- If the executor sells crypto before handing it on, any rise between the date of death and the sale can be taxed as part of the estate. It's often simpler to pass the crypto on and let

each person decide when to sell.

- Keep the date-of-death valuation from the "Valuing crypto for HMRC" section. It's the figure the new owners will need when they sell, possibly many years from now.
- Anyone who inherits crypto should keep their own records of when they received it, how much, and what it was worth on the date of death.

General information, not legal or tax advice. If the estate is large or anything is unclear, ask a solicitor before moving any crypto.