

From: [FOI](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 43/17 NI Election Voter Numbers Response to Clarification
Date: 19 May 2017 12:22:59

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to your clarification of your request FOI 43/17,

Original request:

can you provide me with numbers of voters who, while able to vote in the election for MLA's in 2016 and the Referendum 2016 but who were unable to vote at the MLA election 2017?

Clarification received on 18 May 2017:

I did not ask you who voted in the electoral events of 2016 did not vote at the Northern Ireland Assembly election on 2 March 2017. I asked you how many people who were eligible to vote were turned away because they did not receiving their polling cards when they should have, having been able to vote at the referendum and the 2016 election.

If people had not registered then yes they should have been turned away but that is not what I asked.

The question I asked was why people having been able to vote at the referendum and the 2016 election suddenly found they had been left of the register this time?????

Something not right somewhere. Needs investigating as I would be very interested to see the break down of people turned away because of a fault in the system!!!!

Our response is:

The Commission does not hold the information requested.

In December 2016, around 60,000 entries were removed from the electoral register in Northern Ireland, because these people had not replied to the canvass in 2013, or subsequent requests from EONI for them to confirm their details.

After three years of being maintained on the register (meaning that these people could vote at the Assembly election and EU referendum in 2016), these entries were removed in December 2016 in order to maintain the accuracy of the register. Anyone removed in December 2016 was able to apply to go back on the register by the deadline for the March Assembly election of 14 February 2017.

It is possible that some of the 3,500 people turned away from polling stations on 2 March were amongst these 60,000 entries although as previously stated we do not hold the information to confirm whether this is the case.

If you are seeking further information about the Electoral Register in Northern

Ireland this is maintained by the EONI (Electoral Office Northern Ireland). The EONI website can be found at the following address www.eoni.org.uk and their contact information for Freedom of Information requests is info@eoni.org.uk.

I trust that this information satisfies your request. The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority.

If you are not satisfied with this response, please note that the Commission operates a review procedure, details of which can be found on the Commission website at: <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information-requests/how-do-i-make-an-foi-request>.

Please also note that if you have exhausted all internal Commission review procedures and you are still not satisfied you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner. Details of this procedure can be found on the ICO website: <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

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