

Sent via email: [REDACTED]

30 June 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Internal review of FOI request FOI 054-23

Thank you for your email to FOI@electoralcommssion.org.uk of 6 June 2023 seeking an internal review of your request for information, reference number **FOI 054-23**

In seeking an internal review you made the following comments:

I would like to request a review of how you have handled this decision.

You have referred me to a response to another FOI.

However, this says there are secure documents that were sent in response to the other response - I have not been provided these.

Further re:

-the nature of the loan

- the terms of the loan

- the justification given to the electoral commission as to why the loan was reported late

None of these three requests have been answered in the other foi - ie the nature of the loan. Was this a cash loan. Was it the loan of goods to the value declared etc. The terms of the loan is repayment plan, interest etc.

And the justification given to the electoral commission for the late reporting, which there must be a record of, has not been provided.

Further there are no emails included between electoral commission staff and snp staff in relation to the loan as requested. Outcome of your internal review:

I have reviewed the information provided in our original response to your request. In our response we highlighted that the information you requested was exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 21 provides for an exemption where the information requested is reasonably accessible to you by other means.

You were provided with hyperlinks to our website where you could find the information we hold and that you are looking for. These included:

- A link to our response to a previous FOI request we received on this matter (FOI 002-23)
- A link to our response for an Internal Review of FOI 002-23. This included additional correspondence between the SNP and the Electoral Commission.
- A link to our online political finance database. It was also highlighted that there was no paperwork in which the loan was reported to the Commission. This is because most political parties upload their donation and loans returns directly into our online political finance database from where we directly publish the information.

Having reviewed all of the above information I am satisfied that all of the information that we hold and can publish in relation to your request has been provided to you. I have also spoken to the relevant department who confirmed to me that there is no additional information or correspondence to the above.

I have completed this review because I am a member of the Electoral Commission's management team and I was not previously involved in the original response to your request.

If you remain dissatisfied with our response, you can appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. For further details about the appeal procedure please visit www.ico.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Cahir Hughes
Head of Electoral Commission Northern Ireland
Electoralcommission.org.uk