

From: FOI
Sent: 21 March 2017 15:51
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 20/17 - Advice sought by CUP for UKPGE

Dear [REDACTED],

Our Ref: FOI 20/17

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated **15 March 2017**.

The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly and has done so within the statutory timeframe of twenty working days.

Your request is in bold below followed by our response.

You have requested:

Please could you provide any correspondence from the Conservative party seeking advice about the allocation of campaign spending between national and local level at the 2015 election and any responses from the Electoral Commission providing advice.

Our response is as follows:

We do not hold the information you have requested.

You have not provided a timeframe in which you are interested, and we therefore searched our records for the period May 2014 to May 2015, in other words the 12 month period leading up to the 2015 UK Parliamentary General Election.

The Commission does not have any record of correspondence from the Conservative party specifically seeking advice about the allocation of campaign spending between national and local level at the 2015 election. Please note that the terms 'national' and 'local' are not used in the relevant legislation. Rather, spending is either to promote a candidate or a party. Spending at a local level can be either party or candidate spending.

In case it is helpful, the Commission refers to the 'splitting' of spending between party and candidate in its [guidance for candidates and agents](#), on pages 13 and 14. The Commission has also produced a specific guidance document on [splitting spending](#) which deals with splitting between party and candidate amongst other types of splitting of spending.

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]

Information Officer

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