

[REDACTED]

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**From:** FOI  
**Sent:** 23 May 2019 16:56  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FOI 043-19  
**Attachments:** email 1\_Redacted.pdf; email 2\_Redacted.pdf; email 3\_Redacted.pdf; email 4\_Redacted.pdf

**Categories:** Transferred to Skynet

**SharePointLocationUrl:** [REDACTED]

**SharePointAbsoluteFileUrl:** [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

**Our Ref: FOI 043-19**

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated **05 March 2019**.

The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly and regrets that it has not done so within the statutory timeframe of twenty working days.

Your request is in bold below followed by our response.

**1) Any correspondence you have had about the Independence Group with the following MPs, and/or their offices since January 1 2019 to present:**

**Chuka Umunna MP**  
**Anna Soubry MP**

**Gavin Shuker MP**  
**Chris Leslie MP**

**2) An overview of how many meetings/conversations they have had with relevant officials about registering TIG as a political party, and when they were.**

Our response is as follows:

**We hold the information you have requested.**

**We have released correspondence between representatives acting on behalf of the Change UK – The Independent Group (formerly known as ‘The Independent Group’) and the Commission in relation to the time frames above. We understand that these representatives were not contacting us on behalf of the MPs offices, but as explained, on behalf of Change UK – The Independent Group.**

We have not answered your question located under point 2 of your request. This is because it does not constitute a valid request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. A public authority is not required to create data in order to comply with the Act. Providing you with an 'overview' of meetings would require us to create data. You are able to submit a request for details of the meetings taken place.

### **Exemptions under section 40(2)**

You will notice that certain personal details have been redacted from the documents we are releasing. Section 40(2) provides exemption where the information requested constitutes personal data as defined by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA), and where release of the information requests would breach one of the data protection principles. Some of the information contained in the requested information falls within the description of personal data as defined by section 1 of the DPA because the information relates directly to an identifiable living individual. This includes names and contact details of individuals in some instances. This also relates to Electoral Commission staff members, the individuals in some cases are junior staff members and they would not reasonably expect their information to be released.

I trust that this information satisfies your request. The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority, but in some circumstances we cannot responsibly release requested information, and we ask for your understanding in this regard.

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: <https://ico.org.uk/>

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

Access to Information Officer (FOI and DPA)

**The Electoral Commission**

[FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk)

[electoralcommission.org.uk](http://electoralcommission.org.uk)

[REDACTED]

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**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Meeting with the Electoral Commission

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 February 2019 15:00  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Meeting with the Electoral Commission

[REDACTED],

Address is 3 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8YZ.

The nearest tube is Moorgate.

If you arrive to reception, I will come down and collect you. They are expecting you.

Sorry thought you had these details the other day.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 February 2019 20:07  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Meeting with the Electoral Commission

That worked. See you Wednesday.

[REDACTED]

On Mon, 18 Feb 2019, 18:37 [REDACTED] wrote:

Test

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 February 2019 16:39  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Meeting with the Electoral Commission

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your call.

As discussed, please let me know at your earliest convenience the best time for the meeting to take place either tomorrow or Wednesday with the Electoral Commission and Mr Shuker.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**The Electoral Commission**

[REDACTED]

[electoralcommission.org.uk](http://electoralcommission.org.uk)

**Subject:** FW: FW: Meeting with the Electoral Commission

**Importance:** High

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 27 February 2019 08:55  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Meeting with the Electoral Commission  
**Importance:** High

Morning [REDACTED],

Hope you're well. Just wanted to check in after Monday's meeting; I know [REDACTED] was keen we had another meeting by the end of this week so would be good to get something booked in.

Happy to coordinate by phone, if easier?

My number is below.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### The Electoral Commission

[REDACTED]  
[electoralcommission.org.uk](http://electoralcommission.org.uk)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 February 2019 15:50  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Meeting with the Electoral Commission

Thanks! You too.

[REDACTED]

On Fri, 22 Feb 2019, 15:47 [REDACTED] wrote:

Thanks [REDACTED]

Have a lovely weekend when it comes,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 February 2019 15:37  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Meeting with the Electoral Commission

Hello [REDACTED]

Confirming receipt.

I'm seeking clarity on when we might be in a position, following Monday's meeting, to share further information.

Best,

[REDACTED]

On Fri, 22 Feb 2019, 13:33 [REDACTED] wrote:

[REDACTED]

Just resending as I got a delayed response.

Would be great if you could confirm receipt.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 21 February 2019 12:39  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Meeting with the Electoral Commission

[REDACTED]

Great to meet you yesterday. Appreciate you coming to Bunhill Row, so thanks again for that.

I just wanted to follow up in advance of us arranging another meeting for later next week. I wonder if you would be able to find out, when after the inaugural meeting on Monday, you expect to be able to send over more of the information, as discussed yesterday.

Once you can confirm, I will build in time for Louise and Majella to review as necessary, I can send over some suggested meeting times.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**The Electoral Commission**

[REDACTED]

[electoralcommission.org.uk](http://electoralcommission.org.uk)





[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 01 March 2019 15:24  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Meeting with the Electoral Commission

[REDACTED]

Are we able to confirm timings for Tuesday afternoon yet?

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 February 2019 12:09  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Meeting with the Electoral Commission

[REDACTED]

Just a gentle nudge as to when you think you might be able to send through the paperwork?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**The Electoral Commission**

[REDACTED]  
[electoralcommission.org.uk](http://electoralcommission.org.uk)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 February 2019 15:50  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Meeting with the Electoral Commission

Thanks! You too.

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Thanks [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

---

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**Sent:** 21 February 2019 12:39  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Meeting with the Electoral Commission

[REDACTED]

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Look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**The Electoral Commission**

[REDACTED]

[electoralcommission.org.uk](https://electoralcommission.org.uk)

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 05 March 2019 08:10  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Independent Group

Thanks [REDACTED].

See you soon.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 05 March 2019 08:04  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: Independent Group

Morning [REDACTED]

It will be:

Chris Leslie  
Chuka Umunna  
Ann Coffey  
Gavin Shuker

Best,  
[REDACTED]

On 5 Mar 2019 07:18, [REDACTED] wrote:

Morning [REDACTED]

I didn't receive an email last night from [REDACTED] with the attendees. Grateful if yo could send this morning as I'll need to let our reception and security know before we meet.

Look forward to seeing you

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone