

From [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 April 2017 17:26
To [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 26/17 - Electoral Fraud Cases Response

Dear [REDACTED]

Our Ref: FOI 26/17

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 24 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:

Your recently published report into Electoral Fraud cases in 2016 states that there were 8 cases of alleged secrecy (RPA S66) offences in 2016.

I would like to know for each case:

- 1. the S66 clause(s) relating to the alleged offences (1a, 1d, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4a,4b,4c,4d);**
- 2. the election the allegations related to, including the electoral district;**
- 3. where completed, the outcome of any investigation.**

Our response is as follows:

We hold some of the information you have requested.

We have published on our website (<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/find-information-by-subject/electoral-fraud/data-and-analysis>) data on each case of alleged electoral fraud recorded by UK police forces during 2016. The Excel spreadsheet is available at: http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/data/assets/excel_doc/0005/223187/quality-assurance-spreadsheet-format-for-web-site-final.xlsx

This spreadsheet provides information relevant to your request, including the type of election, police force and local authority area for each case, and the outcome of each case. I have extracted the information relevant to each of the eight cases of alleged offences under Section 66 of the Representation of the People Act (RPA) 1983, which I have included with this response. The data is based on the most recent response we have received from police forces at the end of January 2017.

Please note that the Commission does not hold data on the specific sub-sections of Section 66 of the RPA 1983 to which these cases related, but we have provided a summary of the information we do hold which explains the nature of each of the allegations.

I trust that this information satisfies your request. 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,

██████████

████████████████████

Senior Information and Knowledge Adviser

The Electoral Commission

3 Bunhill Row

London EC1Y 8YZ

FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk

electoralcommission.org.uk

yourvotematters.co.uk

Cases of alleged offences under Section 66 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 recorded by UK police forces in 2016, as at end January 2017

| Local authority | Police force | Case | Category | Summary title and RPA reference | Outcome | Election type |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cheshire East | Cheshire Constabulary | Case 3 | Voting | 66 Requirement of secrecy – related to publication on social media of a photo of a completed polling station ballot paper | Locally resolved | Police and Crime Commissioner |

| Local authority | Police force | Case | Category | Summary title and RPA reference | Outcome | Election type |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Plymouth | Devon and Cornwall Constabulary | Case 7 | Voting | 66 Requirement of secrecy – related to publication on a website of statements about how individuals had voted | Locally resolved | EU Referendum |
| Cornwall | Devon and Cornwall Constabulary | Case 8 | Voting | 66 Requirement of secrecy – related to photos taken inside a polling station | No further action - not RPA offence | Local election |
| Stroud | Gloucestershire Constabulary | Case 1 | Voting | 66 Requirement of secrecy – related to publication on a website and social media of statements about how individuals had voted (by post) | No further action - no offence | EU Referendum |
| Humberside | Humberside Police | Case 2 | Voting | 66 Requirement of secrecy – related to publication on social media of a photo of a completed postal ballot paper | No further action - no offence | Police and Crime Commissioner |

| Local authority | Police force | Case | Category | Summary title and RPA reference | Outcome | Election type |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Liverpool | Merseyside Police | Case 2 | Voting | 66 Requirement of secrecy – related to tallying by election agent using information obtained at a postal vote opening session | Under investigation | Local election |
| Stoke on Trent | Staffordshire Police | Case 3 | Voting | 66 Requirement of secrecy - related to publication on a website of a photo of a completed postal ballot paper | No further action - no offence | Police and Crime Commissioner |
| Kirklees | West Yorkshire Police | Case 30 | Voting | 66 Requirement of secrecy – related to election agent publishing on social media information obtained at a postal vote opening session | Locally resolved | Local election |