

From: [FOI](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 82/17 Access to Electoral Registers Response
Date: 15 June 2017 15:25:52

Dear [REDACTED],

Our Ref: FOI 82/17

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated **7 June 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:

**Is there a list of actors who got access to the electoral commission register?
Could I get a copy of it, under a follow up FOI request?**

Our response is as follows:

The Commission does not hold the requested information.

Please be advised that there is not a central 'electoral commission register'.

Each local authority must appoint an officer of the council to be the registration officer for their area. Each Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) is required by law to keep two registers – the electoral register and the open register (which was known as the 'edited' register before June 2014).

The electoral register

The electoral register is used for electoral purposes, such as making sure only eligible people can vote. It is also used for other limited purposes specified in law, such as detecting crime (e.g. fraud), calling people for jury service and checking credit applications.

The [Representation of the People Regulations 2001](#) (as amended) sets out a comprehensive framework as to who may be supplied with the electoral register and the restrictions that apply. For example, a candidate at an election is entitled to be supplied with the electoral register for the area in which they are standing. They may only use it for electoral purposes and for checking the permissibility of donations. Only specific groups – for example, the Office for National Statistics – are entitled to be supplied with the electoral register by **all** EROs.

A summary of the individuals/groups who can be supplied with the electoral register is included on our [website](#). If you do not fall within one of these groups you will not be entitled to be supplied with the register. There are also restrictions on the recipients' use of copies of the register.

However, each electoral register can be inspected, under supervision, by any person at the relevant local authority. Hand-written notes may be taken. You can

find contact details for EROs on our [Your Vote Matters](#) website.

The open register

The open register is an extract of the electoral register, but is not used for elections. It can be bought by any person, company or organisation.

The open register omits all electors who have requested that their details be removed from this version. Any elector who is concerned to protect their privacy has thus been able since 2002 to opt-out of the open version of the register. There are no specific restrictions on how the open register may be used (beyond the requirements of the law, such as the Data Protection Act 1998). The fees charged by Local Authorities for supplying the open register are set in legislation.

In order to purchase the open register you will need to contact the relevant local authority. You can find contact details for EROs on our [Your Vote Matters](#) website.

Freedom of information

It is worth noting that EROs are not a public authority under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 and, as such, are exempt from the disclosure requirements imposed by it.

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,





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