From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 112/17 Canterbury Voting Response
Date: 27 July 2017 11:43:32

Dear [redacted]

I apologise for my previous emails. Please find the response to your request below related to Canterbury, the other were sent in error.

Our Ref: FOI 112/17

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated **14 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:

I believe that a number of Canterbury residents are also registered to vote in other parts of the country.

It is my understanding after conversations with Canterbury Council that voters need their National Insurance number (or some form of identification) to register. Given that all electors are ticked off a list when they vote, I believe it would be possible to cross reference the data to see how many people voted in more than one constituency.

My question is please could you tell me how many people in the Canterbury Constituency voted twice in the general election 2017?

Our response is as follows:

Electoral registers are held at the local level by Electoral Registration Officers appointed by each local authority in Great Britain, and by the Chief Electoral Officer in Northern Ireland. There is currently no centrally compiled database of local electoral registers, which means that there is no system in place which could automatically identify those electors who are included in more than one register, and ensure that they are only able to vote once. As a result we do not hold the information you have requested.

The Commission released a report on Monday 17 July on electoral registration at the June 2017 general election. It recognised that a number of people on social media claimed they had voted twice at the election and that the Commission received an amount of correspondence about the issue. Although there is so far a lack of evidence of widespread abuse, we take these reports very seriously. You can view our report on our website at:

https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/232761/Electoral-registration-report-July-2017.pdf

The Commission made recommendations in the report for possible ways the risk of this kind of electoral fraud could be reduced. We want to work with the UK Government to explore whether possible solutions to identify duplicate registration applications could also help to reduce the risk of people voting in more than one constituency at a UK Parliamentary general election.

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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