

From: [FOI](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [FOI](#)
Subject: RE: FOI 156/17 EU Referendum System Crash - Response
Date: 20 October 2017 12:08:45

Dear [REDACTED]

Our Ref: FOI 156/17

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated **03 October 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:

Q1 Can you divulge the assessment , if any, of the police investigation, if any, into the system crash for electoral registration crash of June 7th, 2016?

Q2 Can you estimate ,more accurately, the level of voters that were effected by the "crash"?

Q3 Given that 97% of polling stations were reported to have had issues with electoral registers ad voters names not included,-do you have an accurate assessment of how many electors were effected?

Q4 What were the criteria for extending the deadline for registration?

Q5 Why was the deadline extended in Northern Ireland?

Our response is as follows:

We hold some of the information you requested. Taking your questions in turn:

Q1 The Commission is not aware of any police investigation into the failure of the Government's online registration portal on 7th June 2016.

Q2 A significant number of people (we believe over 50,000) were on the website when it first crashed and many more may have attempted to go onto it between 10.15pm and midnight.

Q3 The Commission is not aware of any evidence that suggests 97% of polling stations had issues with electoral registers.

Q4 Given the circumstances of the website failure and the volume of users at the time the Commission and the Chief Counting Officer concluded that it would be in the best interests of voters to consider options to extend the deadline, and the Commission issued a statement calling on the UK Government to introduce emergency legislation to extend the registration application deadline.

Q5 The electoral registration application deadline ahead of the EU referendum was not extended in Northern Ireland. The UK Government was responsible for introducing the legislation required to extend the electoral registration deadline. During debate in the House of Commons on the proposed legislation, the Government explained that, because the online registration application service was not previously available to people in Northern Ireland, the website crash had not affected people in Northern Ireland and there was therefore no need to extend the deadline.

You can read the text of the debate in Hansard online at <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2016-06-09/debates/16060924000001/EUReferendumVoterRegistration#contribution-16060925000024>.

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

Yours sincerely,



Information Management Adviser

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