From:	FOI
To:	[redacted]
Cc:	FOI
Subject:	FOI Response - Sir John Holmes Campaign Finance - 173/17
Date:	13 November 2017 14:26:40

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI 173/17

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated **12 November 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.

These are questions regarding information in Sir John Holmes Campaign Finance report and ramifications. It is acknowledged that there were several issues of financial "accidents" dismissable as chaff. The one issue that I am seeking information on
regards the Democratic Unionist Party and its use from Richard Cook's CRC/Scottish Conservatives for use in the London newspaper, "METRO". The report in the Feb. 24th Belfast Telegraph identified a sum of £425,622 of which £282,000 was used for adverts
supporting Leave. This means a sum of £143,622 appears to be unaccounted for. The Belfast Telegraph appeared to identify the Chief Whip of the DUP, Jeffrey Donaldson MP as chiefly responsible. It is recognised that the subject may be under Northern
Ireland electoral anonymity restrictions, and under current Commission investigation, nevertheless:

Q1 Was the activity of provincial, nee national, politicians in campaigning in London permissible? What restrictions were on their finance?
Q2 How is the £143, 622 balance accounted for?
Q3 In constructing the confidence-and-supply arrangement with the DUP, did the Government assess the activity of the DUP Chief Whip, Jeffrey Donaldson MP, in this matter? What conclusions did the Government draw?"

Our response is as follows:

The Electoral Commission considers this to be a duplicate request of FOI 160/17, to which we responded in full on 9 November 2017 and no further action will be taken on this request.

I would direct you to the answer that you received from us on that date. If you are unable to locate the email from the Commission with our response to FOI 160/17, please let us knows and we can resend that to you. The Cabinet Office when they advised you to contact us would not have been aware that we have already responded to this request having received it separately.

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: https://ico.org.uk/

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
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