From: FOI
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 1771/17 Independence of the Electoral Commission Response
Date: 13 December 2017 18:08:19

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI 177/17

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated **15 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.

Q1 : What is the nature of the relationship between the Civil Service Commission and the Electoral Commission for human resources management, selection processes, recruitment, etc.?

Q2 Are Sir John Holmes, Jenny Watson CBE, and Emma Huntley (Head of Campaigns), the three main authors of Electoral Commission Reports on the 2016 UK Membership of the EU, still in post? If that is not the case, is it possible to be informed of the nature of their leaving the EC and ostensible reasons?

Q3 What is the level of staff turnover at Bunhill Row and in Regional bases of the Electoral Commission? Can this be please defined as a trend since 2013?

Q4 What senior management appointments have been made within the Electoral Commission since, say, June 23rd, 2016?

Our response is as follows:

We hold some of the information you have requested.

Q1: The Electoral Commission is not part of the Civil Service and therefore is not bound by the Civil Service Commission's recruitment code or the Civil Service Code in relation to the terms and conditions in place for the Electoral Commission's employees. However, as stated in PPERA the Electoral Commission is obliged to have due regard to the Civil Service when setting the terms and conditions of its employees and when carrying out recruitment and selection.

Q2: Jenny Watson CBE held the appointment of Chair until 31 December 2016 when her appointment came to an end. Sir John Holmes (who replaced Jenny Watson as Chair) and Emma Hartley are still in post.

Q3: Total turnover for Bunhill Row and the Regionals bases of the Electoral Commission (which we have defined as our three offices in the devolved nations – Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh – and the members of our English regional team) are below.

Period	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Total Turnover (Bunhill Row)	24.76%	20.09%	18.57%	28.45%	17.19%
Total Turnover (Regions)	3.92%	20.00%	0.00%	3.77%	0.00%

Q4: Please refer to the Commission's website for the current list of roles that make up our Executive Team and Senior Leadership Group.

Of the current membership, the following positions were appointed to since 23 June 2016:

- Head of External Communications
- Head of Support and Improvement
- Head of Strategic Planning and Resourcing
- Head of Human Resources
- Head of Information, Communication and Technology

The following roles were also appointed to after 23 June 2016 and have since left the Commission

- Head of Finance
- Head of Human Resources

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]

[redacted]

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