[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 26 November 2020 10:11
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 136-20 - Response

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI-136-20

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 30 October 2020.

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 shown below followed by our response.

My request relates to a scheme that has been set up to process candidates applying to be a special adviser to the Government by way of the Conservative and Unionist Party, as advertised on this website www.spadjobs.uk.

According to this website, candidates may submit applications for positions with the Government via email by emailing apply@spadjobs.uk and submitting requests for further information at info@spadjobs.uk.

According to this website, this process is managed in its initial stage by a commercial firm, Hanbury Strategy and Communications Limited.

According to this website, Hanbury will assess applications and may then present candidates, in its discretion, to the Government, which will conduct its own assessment and interview process to determine whether a candidate is suitable for a special adviser role.

Under the freedom of information act, I would like to ask for :

1. *Complete copies of any and all correspondence between the Electoral Commission and the Conservative Party regarding this scheme since January 1 2019.*
2. *Complete copies of any and all correspondence between the Electoral Commission and Hanbury regarding this scheme since January 1 2019.*

Our response is as follows:

We do not hold the information you have requested.

We have carried out extensive searches, checking with all directorates in the Commission and found no correspondence. The final stage of the process will be an interview with the Downing Street Director of Communications, who will ultimately be responsible for all hiring decisions, which will be subject to vetting.

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: https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/freedom-information/make-a-freedom-information-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 Officer
FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk