[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 03 February 2020 12:37
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 301-19 - Response
Attachments: FOI 214-19 - Response Attachments Final .docx.pdf; Extract from Monitoring Circulars.pdf; 12-12_Redacted.pdf; 11-13_Redacted.pdf; 09-03_Redacted.pdf; NI Q3 2019 Permissibility Checks_Redacted.pdf

Dear [redacted]

Our Ref: FOI 301-19

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 18/12/2019.

The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly and regrets that we have not done so within the statutory timeframe of twenty working days.

Your request is in bold below followed by our response.

Under FoI information I would like to request any information the Commission holds from any source on the Sinn Féin political donor William Hampton.

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested.

We have previously released information in relation to donations from William Hampton to Sinn Féin. This information was released in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act and covered the period up to and including 2 September 2019. That response, reference number FOI 214-19, is attached.

Also attached are a number of documents from 3 September 2019 to 18 December 2019 containing the requested information.

We also received a donation report from Sinn Féin on 25 October 2019 that contained details of the three most recent donations from William Hampton. We are not disclosing this donation report as all of the information contained within it which can be disclosed under data protection law is included in our published register of donations. That information is reasonably accessible to you by other means and is exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act.

You can find our online register of donations on our website, and this link will take you to donations reported by Sinn Féin.

Section 40(2):

You will notice that certain personal details have been redacted from the documents we are releasing. Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides for an exemption where the information requested constitutes personal data as defined by the Data Protection Act 2018

(DPA), and where release of the information requested would breach one of the data protection principles. Some of the information contained in the requested information falls within the description of personal data as defined by the DPA because the information relates directly to an identifiable living individual. This includes names and contact details of individuals in some instances. The individuals in some cases are junior staff members and they would not reasonably expect their information to be released.

I trust that this information satisfies your request. The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority, but in some circumstances we cannot responsibly release requested information, and we ask for your understanding in this regard.

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-freedominformation-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

FOI Support Officer

The Electoral Commission
020 7271 0585
electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 24 September 2019 14:59
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 214-19 - Response
Attachments: 08-01_Redacted.pdf; 08-06_Attachment_Redacted.pdf; 08-06_Redacted.pdf; 08-06a_Redacted.pdf; 08-06b_Redacted.pdf; 08-06c_Redacted.pdf; 09-02 _Redacted.pdf; 09-03_Redacted.pdf

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI-214-19

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated **02/09/2019.**

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.

This is a request for all information held, including any details of investigation by the EC into the donation via bequest to Sinn Fein of £1.5m (in sums of £1m and £500k) by William E Hampton, whom died in January 2019.

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested.

The Commission has not conducted and has no current plans to conduct any investigation into the donations to Sinn Fein to which you refer. The Commission conducted permissibility checks in relation to this donation. The purpose of these is to verify that the donation was made by a permissible donor. The checks confirmed that the donor was permissible.

Section 54 of PPERA provides that in relation to donations in the form of bequests, the deceased is a permissible donor if they were, at any time within the period of five years ending with the date of their death, registered in an electoral register.

Sinn Fein provided us with a letter to them from the relevant local authority confirming that the late Mr Hampton was on an electoral register within the preceding five years. We contacted the authority to verify the letter and its content and received confirmation from them. We were therefore satisfied that Sinn Fein conducted appropriate checks on the donation, and we independently verified that the donor was permissible.

The Commission is not aware of any evidence to suggest anything else was improper regarding this donation.

We are disclosing to you the information referenced above – consisting of the letter provided by Sinn Fein and email correspondence between the Commission and the relevant local authority verifying its authenticity, as well as related internal correspondence.

We are not disclosing the donation report delivered by Sinn Fein as all of the information contained within it which can be disclosed under data protection law is included in our published register of donations. That information is reasonably accessible to you by other means and is exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act. You can find our online register of donations on our website, and the link below will take you to donations reported by Sinn Fein.

http://search.electoralcommission.org.uk/?currentPage=1&rows=10&query=sinn%20fein&sort=AcceptedDate&order=desc&tab=1&et=pp&et=ppm&et=tp&et=perpar&et=rd&isIrishSourceYes=true&isIrishSourceNo=true&prePoll=false&postPoll=true&register=gb&register=ni&register=none&optCols=Register&optCols=CampaigningName&optCols=AccountingUnitsAsCentralParty&optCols=IsSponsorship&optCols=IsIrishSource&optCols=RegulatedDoneeType&optCols=CompanyRegistrationNumber&optCols=Postcode&optCols=NatureOfDonation&optCols=PurposeOfVisit&optCols=DonationAction&optCols=ReportedDate&optCols=IsReportedPrePoll&optCols=ReportingPeriodName&optCols=IsBequest&optCols=IsAggregation

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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,

Access to Information Officer (FOI and DPA)
The Electoral Commission
FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk
electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 01 August 2019 15:21
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Donation
Attachments: Scanned from a Xerox Multifunction Printer.pdf

Hi [redacted]

I have had a request for help from my colleagues in NI. They have asked me to check that the information in the attached letter from yourselves is correct. Would you be able to confirm this for me?

It would appear the Sinn Fein received a bequest from an elector that was on the electoral register in Pembrokeshire.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: 01 August 2019 14:53
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: Donation

Hi [redacted]

The rules on permissibility checks in Northern Ireland are different from GB. Whilst there is no obligation on the Commission to check the permissibility of donors in GB, In Northern Ireland we are legally required to check the permissibility of all donors.

Please find attached copy of letter from Pembrokeshire County Council, can you verify the details on the letter are correct please?

If you want to clarify anything further [redacted] could explain it in more depth.

Thanks

[redacted]

Date · *Dyddiad* 1 February 2018

Your ref · *Eich cyfeirnod*

My ref · *Fy nghyfeirnod*

Telephone · *Ffôn*

Email · *Ebost*

Pembrokeshire County Council
Cyngor Sir Penfro

[redacted]

[redacted]
Sinn Fein

Please ask for
Os gwelwch yn dda gofynnwch am

Dear Sir

ELECTORAL REGISTRATION
CONFIRMATION OF DECEASED ENTRY ON THE ELECTORAL REGISTER

I write to confirm the electoral details of WILLIAM E HAMPTON deceased

Was registered on the Electoral Register as of 1st December 2017.

The entry appears as follows:

[redacted]
William E Hampton

[redacted]

Yours faithfully

Electoral Services

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English, and will respond within a maximum of 15 working days. We will respond in the language in which the correspondence is received (unless you ask us to do otherwise). / Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn ymateb cyn pen 15 diwrnod gwaith fan bellaf. Byddwn yn ymateb yn yr un iaith â'r ohebiaeth a dderbyniwyd (oni bai eich bod yn gofyn i ni wneud yn wahanol).

For a copy in large print, easy-read, Braille, audio, or an alternative language, please contact Pembrokeshire County Council on the number above. / Os am gopi mewn print mawr, fformat hawdd ei ddarllen, Braille, sain neu mewn iaith arall, cysylltwch â Chyngor Sir Penfro ar y rhif uchod.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 06 August 2019 12:48
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Donation
Attachments: Scanned from a Xerox Multifunction Printer.pdf

Importance: High

Hi [redacted]

Here is confirmation from Pembrokeshire council regarding the donation.

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 August 2019 12:42
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>; [redacted]
[redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>; [redacted]
[redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Donation

If you have received this email in error, please notify us by telephone on 01437 764551 and delete it from your computer immediately. Os ydych chi wedi derbyn yr e-bost hwn trwy gamgymeriad, byddwch cystal â rhoi gwybod inni trwy ffonio 01437 764551. Wedyn dylech ddileu'r e-bost ar unwaith oddi ar eich cyfrifiadur.

Hi [redacted]

[redacted] is away from the office at the moment so I just wanted to confirm that the information in the attached letter is correct.

Mr William E Hampton was registered as stated in the attached letter.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
Pembrokeshire County Council
Unit 23, Thornton Industrial Trading Estate Milford Haven Pembrokeshire
SA73 2RR

[redacted]
[redacted]

To register to vote, please click the image below: I gofrestru i bleidleisio, cliciwch ar y ddelwedd isod:

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 01 August 2019 15:35
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>; [redacted]
[redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>; [redacted]
[redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Donation

Hello [redacted] and thank you for your email. I do recall colleagues saying something on this and that someone from Sinn Fein had inspected the electoral register and may have had a Police escort, or something along those lines. However, I need to establish some more background information especially as the letter has not been signed. It does look authentic enough. [redacted].

Let me speak to my colleagues and I will get back to you.

[redacted] - please let me have any of your recollections of this.

Regards,
[redacted]

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk]
Sent: 01 August 2019 15:21
To: [redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Donation

Hi [redacted]

I have had a request for help from my colleagues in NI. They have asked me to check that the information in the attached letter from yourselves is correct. Would you be able to confirm this for me?

It would appear the Sinn Fein received a bequest from an elector that was on the electoral register in Pembrokeshire.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: 01 August 2019 14:53
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: Donation

Hi [redacted]

The rules on permissibility checks in Northern Ireland are different from GB. Whilst there is no obligation on the Commission to check the permissibility of donors in GB, In Northern Ireland we are legally required to check the permissibility of all donors.

Please find attached copy of letter from Pembrokeshire County Council, can you verify the details on the letter are correct please?

If you want to clarify anything further [redacted] could explain it in more depth.

Thanks

[redacted]

****
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Pembrokeshire County Council Website - http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk Please Note: Incoming and outgoing e-mail messages are routinely monitored for compliance with our IT Security, and Email/Internet Policy.
This signature also confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses and malicious code.
Pembrokeshire County Council
Phone Number 01437 764551
Email enquiries@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

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For a copy in large print, easy-read, Braille, audio or an alternative language, please contact the person who sent this email.
****
Dim ond y sawl y mae'r ddogfen hon wedi'i chyfeirio atynt ddylai ei darllen, a'i defnyddio ganddynt ar gyfer ei dibenion bwriadedig; ac ni ddylid fel arall ei hatgynhyrchu, copio, lledaenu, datgelu, addasu, dosbarthu, cyhoeddi na'i rhoi ar waith chwaith. Os ydych chi wedi derbyn yr e-bost hwn

trwy gamgymeriad, byddwch cystal a rhoi gwybod i ni ar unwaith trwy ffonio 01437 764551 a'i ddileu oddi ar eich cyfrifiadur ar unwaith. Ni ddylid rhoi'r cyfeiriad e-bost i unrhyw drydydd parti na'i ddefnyddio ar gyfer unrhyw ddiben arall chwaith.
Gwefan Cyngor Sir Penfro - www.sir-benfro.gov.uk
Sylwer: Mae negeseuon e-bost sy'n cael eu hanfon a'u derbyn yn cael eu monitro'n rheolaidd ar gyfer cydymffurfio â'n Diogelwch TG, a'n Polisi E-bost/Rhyngrwyd.
Mae'r llofnod hwn hefyd yn cadarnhau bod y neges e-bost hon wedi cael ei harchwilio am fodolaeth firysau cyfrifiadurol a chod maleisus.
Cyngor Sir Penfro
Rhif ffôn 01437 764551
E-bost ymholiadau@sir-benfro.gov.uk

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn ymateb cyn pen 15 diwrnod gwaith fan bellaf. Byddwn yn ymateb yn yr un iaith â'r ohebiaeth a dderbyniwyd (oni bai eich bod yn gofyn i ni wneud yn wahanol).

Os am gopi mewn print mawr, fformat hawdd ei ddarllen, Braille, sain neu mewn iaith arall, cysylltwch â'r person a anfonodd yr e-bost hwn.
****

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 03 September 2019 13:05
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Donation

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: 06 August 2019 09:12
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Donation

Hi [redacted]

I have chased up the ESM at Pembrokeshire regarding this. As he wasn't around at the time this letter was sent to you, he is discussing with colleagues who were in the office at the time.

I have asked him to come back to me today.

Thanks

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: 01 August 2019 14:53
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: Donation

Hi [redacted]

The rules on permissibility checks in Northern Ireland are different from GB. Whilst there is no obligation on the Commission to check the permissibility of donors in GB, In Northern Ireland we are legally required to check the permissibility of all donors.

Please find attached copy of letter from Pembrokeshire County Council, can you verify the details on the letter are correct please?

If you want to clarify anything further [redacted] could explain it in more depth.

Thanks

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 01 August 2019 13:44
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: Scanned from a Xerox Multifunction Printer

Please open the attached document. It was scanned and sent to you using a Xerox Multifunction Printer.

Attachment File Type: pdf, Multi-Page

Multifunction Printer Location: Belfast
Device Name: Xerox-Belfast

For more information on Xerox products and solutions, please visit http://www.xerox.com

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 06 August 2019 09:11
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Donation

Importance: High

Hi [redacted]

Any news on this?

Many thanks,

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 01 August 2019 15:35
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>; [redacted]
[redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>; [redacted]
[redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Donation

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Hello [redacted] and thank you for your email. I do recall colleagues saying something on this and that someone from Sinn Fein had inspected the electoral register and may have had a Police escort, or something along those lines. However, I need to establish some more background information especially as the letter has not been signed. It does look authentic enough. [redacted].

Let me speak to my colleagues and I will get back to you.

[redacted] - please let me have any of your recollections of this.

Regards,
[redacted]

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk]
Sent: 01 August 2019 15:21
To: [redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Donation

Hi [redacted]

I have had a request for help from my colleagues in NI. They have asked me to check that the information in the attached letter from yourselves is correct. Would you be able to confirm this for me?

It would appear the Sinn Fein received a bequest from an elector that was on the electoral register in Pembrokeshire.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

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Sent: 01 August 2019 14:53
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: Donation

Hi [redacted]

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Please find attached copy of letter from Pembrokeshire County Council, can you verify the details on the letter are correct please?

If you want to clarify anything further [redacted] could explain it in more depth.

Thanks

[redacted]

****
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Pembrokeshire County Council Website - http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk Please Note: Incoming and outgoing e-mail messages are routinely monitored for compliance with our IT Security, and Email/Internet Policy.

This signature also confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses and malicious code.
Pembrokeshire County Council
Phone Number 01437 764551
Email enquiries@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

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****
Dim ond y sawl y mae'r ddogfen hon wedi'i chyfeirio atynt ddylai ei darllen, a'i defnyddio ganddynt ar gyfer ei dibenion bwriadedig; ac ni ddylid fel arall ei hatgynhyrchu, copio, lledaenu, datgelu, addasu, dosbarthu, cyhoeddi na'i rhoi ar waith chwaith. Os ydych chi wedi derbyn yr e-bost hwn trwy gamgymeriad, byddwch cystal a rhoi gwybod i ni ar unwaith trwy ffonio 01437 764551 a'i ddileu oddi ar eich cyfrifiadur ar unwaith. Ni ddylid rhoi'r cyfeiriad e-bost i unrhyw drydydd parti na'i ddefnyddio ar gyfer unrhyw ddiben arall chwaith.
Gwefan Cyngor Sir Penfro - www.sir-benfro.gov.uk
Sylwer: Mae negeseuon e-bost sy'n cael eu hanfon a'u derbyn yn cael eu monitro'n rheolaidd ar gyfer cydymffurfio â'n Diogelwch TG, a'n Polisi E-bost/Rhyngrwyd.
Mae'r llofnod hwn hefyd yn cadarnhau bod y neges e-bost hon wedi cael ei harchwilio am fodolaeth firysau cyfrifiadurol a chod maleisus.
Cyngor Sir Penfro
Rhif ffôn 01437 764551
E-bost ymholiadau@sir-benfro.gov.uk

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn ymateb cyn pen 15 diwrnod gwaith fan bellaf. Byddwn yn ymateb yn yr un iaith â'r ohebiaeth a dderbyniwyd (oni bai eich bod yn gofyn i ni wneud yn wahanol).

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****

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 06 August 2019 12:49
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Donation

Hi [redacted]

Thank you for the confirmation. I will pass on the info to my colleagues in Belfast.

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 August 2019 12:42
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>; [redacted]
[redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>; [redacted]
[redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Donation

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Mr William E Hampton was registered as stated in the attached letter.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
Pembrokeshire County Council
Unit 23, Thornton Industrial Trading Estate Milford Haven Pembrokeshire
SA73 2RR

[redacted]
[redacted]

To register to vote, please click the image below: I gofrestru i bleidleisio, cliciwch ar y ddelwedd isod:

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 01 August 2019 15:35
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>; [redacted]
[redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>; [redacted]
[redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Donation

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[redacted] - please let me have any of your recollections of this.

Regards,
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]

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Pembrokeshire County Council Website - http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk Please Note: Incoming and outgoing e-mail messages are routinely monitored for compliance with our IT Security, and Email/Internet Policy.
This signature also confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses and malicious code.
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Phone Number 01437 764551
Email enquiries@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English and will respond within a maximum of 15 working days. We will respond in the language in which the correspondence is received (unless you ask us to do otherwise).

For a copy in large print, easy-read, Braille, audio or an alternative language, please contact the person who sent this email.
****
Dim ond y sawl y mae'r ddogfen hon wedi'i chyfeirio atynt ddylai ei darllen, a'i defnyddio ganddynt ar gyfer ei dibenion bwriadedig; ac ni ddylid fel arall ei hatgynhyrchu, copio, lledaenu, datgelu, addasu, dosbarthu, cyhoeddi na'i rhoi ar waith chwaith. Os ydych chi wedi derbyn yr e-bost hwn trwy gamgymeriad, byddwch cystal a rhoi gwybod i ni ar unwaith trwy ffonio 01437 764551 a'i ddileu oddi ar eich cyfrifiadur ar unwaith. Ni ddylid rhoi'r cyfeiriad e-bost i unrhyw drydydd parti na'i ddefnyddio ar gyfer unrhyw ddiben arall chwaith.
Gwefan Cyngor Sir Penfro - www.sir-benfro.gov.uk

Sylwer: Mae negeseuon e-bost sy'n cael eu hanfon a'u derbyn yn cael eu monitro'n rheolaidd ar gyfer cydymffurfio â'n Diogelwch TG, a'n Polisi E-bost/Rhyngrwyd.
Mae'r llofnod hwn hefyd yn cadarnhau bod y neges e-bost hon wedi cael ei harchwilio am fodolaeth firysau cyfrifiadurol a chod maleisus.
Cyngor Sir Penfro
Rhif ffôn 01437 764551
E-bost ymholiadau@sir-benfro.gov.uk

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn ymateb cyn pen 15 diwrnod gwaith fan bellaf. Byddwn yn ymateb yn yr un iaith â'r ohebiaeth a dderbyniwyd (oni bai eich bod yn gofyn i ni wneud yn wahanol).

Os am gopi mewn print mawr, fformat hawdd ei ddarllen, Braille, sain neu mewn iaith arall, cysylltwch â'r person a anfonodd yr e-bost hwn.
****

[redacted]

From: Ann Watt
Sent: 02 September 2019 11:10
To: [redacted] Niki Nixon
Subject: RE: Belfast Telegraph query

[redacted] – so I don't think he had any basis for asking for an investigation. I think he was just taking a punt.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 02 September 2019 10:53
To: Ann Watt ; [redacted] Niki Nixon
Subject: RE: Belfast Telegraph query

Ann

Thanks for letting us know.

As far as we are concerned the donation was permissible as the donor was on a UK electoral roll within the five-year period prior to his death.

And did the Bel Tel say on what grounds there should be an investigation?

[redacted]

From: Ann Watt
Sent: 02 September 2019 10:51
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Niki Nixon [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: Belfast Telegraph query

I took a call from someone from the Belfast Telegraph asking if the Commission was planning to investigate the recent donation to Sinn Fein. I said that we were not. He asked if anyone had complained to the Commission about the donation. I said we would look at any issues raised with us, but that we wouldn't discuss them with the media.

Ann

Ann Watt
Head of Electoral Commission, Northern Ireland

The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 03 September 2019 13:06
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Donation

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: 08 August 2019 15:25
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Donation

Thanks for following up on this [redacted] that's really helpful.

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: 06 August 2019 12:48
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: FW: Donation
Importance: High

Hi [redacted]

Here is confirmation from Pembrokeshire council regarding the donation.

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 August 2019 12:42
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>; [redacted]
[redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>; [redacted]
[redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Donation

If you have received this email in error, please notify us by telephone on 01437 764551 and delete it from your computer immediately. Os ydych chi wedi derbyn yr e-bost hwn trwy gamgymeriad, byddwch cystal â rhoi gwybod inni trwy ffonio 01437 764551. Wedyn dylech ddileu'r e-bost ar unwaith oddi ar eich cyfrifiadur.

Hi [redacted]

[redacted] is away from the office at the moment so I just wanted to confirm that the information in the attached letter is correct.

Mr William E Hampton was registered as stated in the attached letter.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks
[redacted]

[redacted]
Pembrokeshire County Council
Unit 23, Thornton Industrial Trading Estate Milford Haven Pembrokeshire
SA73 2RR

[redacted]

To register to vote, please click the image below: I gofrestru i bleidleisio, cliciwch ar y ddelwedd isod:

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 01 August 2019 15:35
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>; [redacted]
[redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>; [redacted]
[redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Donation

Hello [redacted] and thank you for your email. I do recall colleagues saying something on this and that someone from Sinn Fein had inspected the electoral register and may have had a Police escort, or something along those lines. However, I need to establish some more background information especially as the letter has not been signed. It does look authentic enough. [redacted].

Let me speak to my colleagues and I will get back to you.

[redacted] - please let me have any of your recollections of this.

Regards,
[redacted]

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk]
Sent: 01 August 2019 15:21
To: [redacted]@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Donation

Hi [redacted]

I have had a request for help from my colleagues in NI. They have asked me to check that the information in the attached letter from yourselves is correct. Would you be able to confirm this for me?

It would appear the Sinn Fein received a bequest from an elector that was on the electoral register in Pembrokeshire.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: 01 August 2019 14:53
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: Donation

Hi [redacted]

The rules on permissibility checks in Northern Ireland are different from GB. Whilst there is no obligation on the Commission to check the permissibility of donors in GB, In Northern Ireland we are legally required to check the permissibility of all donors.

Please find attached copy of letter from Pembrokeshire County Council, can you verify the details on the letter are correct please?

If you want to clarify anything further [redacted] could explain it in more depth.

Thanks

[redacted]

****
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Pembrokeshire County Council Website - http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk Please Note: Incoming and outgoing e-mail messages are routinely monitored for compliance with our IT Security, and Email/Internet Policy.

This signature also confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses and malicious code.
Pembrokeshire County Council
Phone Number 01437 764551
Email enquiries@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

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Dim ond y sawl y mae'r ddogfen hon wedi'i chyfeirio atynt ddylai ei darllen, a'i defnyddio ganddynt ar gyfer ei dibenion bwriadedig; ac ni ddylid fel arall ei hatgynhyrchu, copio, lledaenu, datgelu, addasu, dosbarthu, cyhoeddi na'i rhoi ar waith chwaith. Os ydych chi wedi derbyn yr e-bost hwn trwy gamgymeriad, byddwch cystal a rhoi gwybod i ni ar unwaith trwy ffonio 01437 764551 a'i ddileu oddi ar eich cyfrifiadur ar unwaith. Ni ddylid rhoi'r cyfeiriad e-bost i unrhyw drydydd parti na'i ddefnyddio ar gyfer unrhyw ddiben arall chwaith.
Gwefan Cyngor Sir Penfro - www.sir-benfro.gov.uk
Sylwer: Mae negeseuon e-bost sy'n cael eu hanfon a'u derbyn yn cael eu monitro'n rheolaidd ar gyfer cydymffurfio â'n Diogelwch TG, a'n Polisi E-bost/Rhyngrwyd.
Mae'r llofnod hwn hefyd yn cadarnhau bod y neges e-bost hon wedi cael ei harchwilio am fodolaeth firysau cyfrifiadurol a chod maleisus.
Cyngor Sir Penfro
Rhif ffôn 01437 764551
E-bost ymholiadau@sir-benfro.gov.uk

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn ymateb cyn pen 15 diwrnod gwaith fan bellaf. Byddwn yn ymateb yn yr un iaith â'r ohebiaeth a dderbyniwyd (oni bai eich bod yn gofyn i ni wneud yn wahanol).

Os am gopi mewn print mawr, fformat hawdd ei ddarllen, Braille, sain neu mewn iaith arall, cysylltwch â'r person a anfonodd yr e-bost hwn.
****

[redacted]

From: Cahir Hughes
Sent: 03 September 2019 09:49
To: Dan Adamson; Ann Watt; [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Query from BBC Nolan Question - re William E Hampton donation to Sinn Fein

I agree with Dan – we'll likely be continued to be asked as there is a lot of suspicion about the donation but some of it does seem to be opportunism by political opponents. On that note the TUV leader Jim Allister has apparently written to the NCA asking them to look into the donation. I think the line we have though does the job

Cahir

From: Dan Adamson
Sent: 02 September 2019 16:20
To: Ann Watt ; [redacted] ; [redacted]
Cc: Cahir Hughes ; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Query from BBC Nolan Question - re William E Hampton donation to Sinn Fein

This is fine with me too, subject to Ann's comments being incorporated. There seems to be a great deal of suspicion around this one, I expect we need to be ready for further queries/speculation. But this deals with it concisely and clearly I think.

Thanks [redacted]

Dan

Dan Adamson
Interim Head of Monitoring and Enforcement

The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: Ann Watt
Sent: 02 September 2019 16:17
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Dan Adamson <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: Cahir Hughes <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Query from BBC Nolan Question - re William E Hampton donation to Sinn Fein

Fine with me

Two small things – for fluency, I wondered about replacing the final "Commission" with "us" (nb missing "the" if you don't change this)

- Missing "by" before Sinn Fein in the 1st sentence

Ann

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 02 September 2019 16:13
To: Ann Watt <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Dan Adamson <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: Query from BBC Nolan Question - re William E Hampton donation to Sinn Fein

Resending to copy in Ann

Hi Ann, [redacted], Dan,

Follow a chat with [redacted], can I quickly run this past you before sending to the BBC? Please see original email below.

The Electoral Commission has checked the permissibility of the donation received Sinn Fein from Mr Hampton. The donation reported by the party was permissible as the donor was on a UK electoral roll within the five-year period prior to his death. It is within the Commission's remit to conduct checks on the permissibility of donations which are reported to Commission.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

Press office: 020 7271 0704
Press out of hours: 07789 920414

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@bbc.co.uk>
Sent: 02 September 2019 15:33
To: Press <press@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: BBC Nolan Question - re William E Hampton donation to Sinn Fein

Hello

The Electoral Commission told the ***i*** that the treasurer of a political party is the legally responsible person for ensuring that all donations it receives come from a permissible source.

It added: "The commission is required by law to check the permissibility of 50% of donations of reported to us in Northern Ireland but in reality we check 100%. The checks we carried out in this case were consistent with our usual procedures."

What specific checks did the Electoral Commission carry out?

Did the Electoral Commission check where the funds Mr Hampton's bequeathed to Sinn Fein originated from?

Our deadline for a response is 8am tomorrow.

Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]
BBC Nolan Show
Mob: [redacted]
Twitter [redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 17 January 2020 12:18
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: BBC inquiry

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 13 November 2019 11:50
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: Cahir Hughes <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Niki Nixon <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: BBC inquiry

Hi [redacted]

You can let [redacted] know that we'll be publishing donations accepted by parties in Q3 2019 on 26 November. We won't comment further on any donations allegedly accepted by parties until then. There's no limit on the size of donations a party can accept, and donations over £7,500 (or smaller donations from the same donor that add together to exceed that threshold) must be reported to us.

Hope that helps

[redacted]

From: Cahir Hughes <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 13 November 2019 10:38
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Niki Nixon <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: FW: BBC inquiry

Hi all

[redacted] from the BBC called me earlier this morning and told me that Sinn Fein had confirmed to him that they have received a further £500,000 from William Hampton and that they have reported this to the Commission. I advised that we will be publishing Q3 in due course and it wouldn't be appropriate to comment before that. He's fine with that but is looking something more formal so see below.

Im not sure if we have confirmed a date to the media yet (I suspect not) but would someone be able to pull together a short statement in response to the below. [redacted] – once this is agreed can you send it to [redacted]

Thanks
Cahir

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@bbc.co.uk>
Sent: 13 November 2019 10:28

To: Cahir Hughes <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: BBC inquiry

Dear Sir/Madam,

Political sources have informed me that Sinn Féin has received a political donation in Q3 of this year of almost half a million pounds from the proceeds of a will from a donor called Billy Hampton.

Has the EC been informed of this donation?

If so, when are donations given in Q3 of this year likely to be announced by the commission?

This comes on the back of 1.5 million the party received form the same source earlier this year and revealed by the Commission in its Q2 returns for party donations.

Is there any limit on the size of donations to political parties in NI?

What value of donations have to be registered?

Thanks you for help.

Best

[redacted]
BBCNI News
[redacted]
Mobile [redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 12 December 2019 12:38
To: Majella La Praik
Subject: RE: Daily Monitoring Circular - Thursday 12 December 2019

Hi

So far, the party have reported £1,500,000 in Q2 and a further £500,000 in Q3. The round numbers would suggest that there is more to come and the party appear to be quite open about receiving the money.

Nothing reported yet in the weeklies, so we'll keep an eye out for this in week 5 and week 6.

[redacted]

From: Majella La Praik
Sent: 12 December 2019 11:27
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Daily Monitoring Circular - Thursday 12 December 2019

Hi [redacted] – haven't been able to read the full article highlighted below but wondered if this matched up with what we've seen being reported?

Ta,
Maj

From: [redacted]
Sent: 12 December 2019 10:49
To: Regulation Directorate <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Press <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]

THURSDAY

Controlled explosion carried out near Motherwell polling station
Suspicious device near polling station in North Lanarkshire
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50755464

People 'wrongly informed' they can vote
EC say an IT glitch in software used by some councils has led to a 'small number of ineligible people being told they could vote
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50750169

Labour threatened with £200,000 fine after failing to declare major trade union donation
Labour reveal £290,000 donation from GMB union, three weeks late
https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/12/11/labour-threatened-200000-fine-failing-declare-major-trade-union/

Cycle to the polling booth for free with Beryl
Bike-share operator offers free rises to polling stations for residents of the City of London, Hereford, Bournemouth or Poole
https://www.cyclist.co.uk/news/7494/cycle-to-the-polling-booth-for-free-with-beryl

Laura Kuenssberg leaks 'grim' postal vote results for Labour
BBC political editor claims that she has been told that the "postal votes that are in are looking pretty grim for Labour'
https://www.thelondoneconomic.com/news/laura-kuenssberg-leaks-grim-postal-vote-results-for-labour/11/12/

We are on the side of truth ….
Yorkshire Post editorial calls on EC to carry out "full inquiry' into the conduct and content" of election campaign
https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/opinion/columnists/we-re-on-the-side-of-truth-we-are-calling-for-an-end-to-the-general-election-lies-the-deception-the-fakery-the-yorkshire-post-says-1-10149888

Dirty tricks campaign continues as North Down race heats up
Allegations of a smear campaign against Alliance Party in North Down
County Down Spectator (no link – available on request)

First Job for the new PM is delivering electoral reform
Commentary on the need to reform the "antiquated" election rules
The Times (no link – available on request)

English engineer's Sinn Fein legacy grows to £4 million
Lawyers reveal the English man who bequeathed £1.5m in his will to Sinn Fein has actually given £4m
https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/english-engineers-sinn-fein-legacy-grows-to-4million-drmtttrq5

How parties used Facebook, Instagram and Google ads
Analysis of how the parties' digital campaigns unfolded
https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/dec/12/how-parties-used-facebook-instagram-and-google-ads

Voters voice anger at more 'misleading' Lib Dem Facebook ads and leaflets

Liberal Democrats accused of using misleading literature and Facebook ads to claim the party is closer to Labour or Conservative candidates in some constituencies
https://firstdraftnews.org/latest/voters-voice-anger-at-more-misleading-lib-dem-facebook-ads-and-leaflets/

Who to vote for in the general election, according to celebrities from Roy 'Chubby' Brown to Dua Lipa
Details of the 'celebrity' endorsements for the major parties during the campaign
https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/general-election-2019-who-vote-for-celebrity-endorsements-1338310

Brexit Party candidates have been 'hounded' says Nigel Farage
Mr Farage claims Brexit Party candidates have been "hounded and bombarded in the most extraordinary way
https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/dec/11/brexit-party-candidates-have-been-hounded-says-nigel-farage

SNP campaigners reported to police for 'treating' voters to mince pies
A complaint has been made to police in North East Fife over SNP campaigners handing out mince pies
https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/news/politics/5056344/snp-general-election-mince-pies-fife/

Fact check: Misleading political party leaflets in Scotland
Analysis of some of the controversial leaflets in Scotland
https://theferret.scot/leaflet-misleading-general-election/

Students denied vote after application errors
Around 200 university students in Cardiff have been denied the chance to vote as a result of an admin error
https://www.expressandstar.com/news/uk-news/2019/12/11/students-denied-vote-after-application-errors/

How have the parties in Scotland used social media?
Analysis of how the Scottish parties have advertised on social media
https://stv.tv/news/politics/1443073-ge2019-how-have-parties-in-scotland-used-social-media/

Labour and Liberal Democrats vow to swap votes to keep out Conservatives in key Yorkshire marginals
Labour and Lib Dem supporters meet together to finalise a vote-swapping alliance
https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/politics/labour-and-liberal-democrats-vow-to-swap-votes-to-keep-out-conservatives-in-key-yorkshire-marginals-1-10149403

Liberal Democrats accused of 'underhand tactics' to win over remain voters in Hitchin and Harpenden
Lib Dems criticised for spreading misinformation that the Labour Party has "admitted defeat" and is no longer competing for the seat
https://www.thecomet.net/news/hitchin-and-harpenden-liberal-democrats-complaints-1-6419849

Brexit Party complain about success of anti-Brexit Facebook campaigns
The Brexit Party emails supporters for funds to target Leave supporters with a £150,000 "all-out social media blitz"
https://scramnews.com/brexit-party-complain-success-anti-brexit-facebook-campaigns-launch-150000-social-media-blitz/

[redacted]
[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

Headline	Summary	Ref #	Section	Date of article	Published in Circul	Link to article		
Large donation made to Sinn Fein may increase significantly	The Belfast Newsletter reports that Sinn Fein may be in line to receive a further £1.1 million in donations from the will of a car mechanic who has emerged as Northern Ireland's biggest political donor. William Edward Hampton, who died in January, left almost all of his estate to Sinn Fein. It emerged that the party had received £1.5m from Mr Hampton, but his estate, after expenses were taken into account, has been valued at £2.6m, which could mean Sinn Fein will receive more than £1m more from the donor. His will, which is now a public document, reveals that it was made just a month before the IRA ceasefire in 1997 and he named two individuals who had previously held senior IRA positions as its executors. Both Joe Cahill, one of the Provisional IRA's most senior figures and Dessie Mackin, who was convicted of IRA membership, were Sinn Fein treasurers in 1997. Mr Hampton's will specifically states that the money is to be used "to cover election expenses, to fund Sinn Fein offices and advice centres" The Electoral Commission has restated that it has no concerns about the donations and has no intention of launching an investigation, despite the announcement by the TUV leader Jim Allister that he has written to the National Crime Agency asking if the organisation	11159	Donations and Loans	03/09/2019	YES	Click here for more information		
Sinn Fein receive a further £500,000 from the estate of Billy Hampton	BBC News reports that the Englishman who left £1.5 million in his will to Sinn Fein, has bequeathed a further £500,000. Informed sources told the BBC that the additional money has already been paid to the party. Mr Hampton made his will in 1997 when he was living in a caravan in County Cavan. According to a copy of the will, the executors and trustees were former IRA chief-of-staff Joe Cahill and another republican, Dessie Mackin. According to the Probate Registry of Wales, (Mr Hampton passed away in Pembrokeshire in 2018) Mr Hampton's will was worth £2.6m hat the time of his death. The latest donation will be recorded in an updated version of the Electoral Commission's list of political donations to be published at the end of November. As Sinn Fein is the main beneficiary, the party could receive further instalments of money in the future.	11421	Donations and Loans	14/11/2019	YES	Click here for more information		

Party	Donor Status	Value	Date of Donation	Donor Name	Company no.	Donor Address	Town/City	Postcode	Permissible	Checked By	Data Input date	Action	Notes
Sinn Fein	Individual	£50,000.00	22/07/2019	William E Hampton		[redacted]			Yes	[redacted]	25/10/2019		Confirmation that William E Hampton was on the register was received from [redacted] Council in Q2 2019
Sinn Fein	Individual	£50,000.00	23/07/2019	William E Hampton		[redacted]			Yes	[redacted]	25/10/2019		Confirmation that William E Hampton was on the register was received from [redacted] Council in Q2 2019
Sinn Fein	Individual	£400,000.00	18/09/2019	William E Hampton		[redacted]			Yes	[redacted]	25/10/2019		Confirmation that William E Hampton was on the register was received from [redacted] Council in Q2 2019