

[REDACTED]

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**From:** FOI  
**Sent:** 04 December 2020 09:34  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FOI 139-20 - Response

Dear [REDACTED],

**Our Ref: FOI-139-20**

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 8 November 2020 and received by the Commission on 9 November 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.

*I am seeking some information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.*

*In the European Referendum held in the United Kingdom 2016, how many of the overall votes submitted and counted were postal votes. Of that total number of postal votes, what was the split between those who voted to remain and those who voted to leave.*

- 1. What was the total number of votes counted*
- 2. Of the total votes how many were cast by postal vote (as a number and a percentage)*
- 3. Of the postal votes how many (as a number and a percentage) were in favour of remaining in the EU*
- 4. Of the postal votes how many (as a number and a percentage) were in favour of leaving the EU*
- 5. Of the total counted postal votes how many (as a number and a percentage) were cast from expatriates living outside of the UK*

**Our response is as follows:**

We hold some of the information you have requested.

The data for questions 1 and 2 is on our website here:

[https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/excel\\_doc/EU-Referendum-electoral-data-website-version.xlsx](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/excel_doc/EU-Referendum-electoral-data-website-version.xlsx).

When counting votes, in the UK, there is no distinction made between votes cast by post and votes cast in a polling station. Data is not therefore available on the number or proportion of postal votes cast for either option at the EU referendum.

Data is also not recorded on the number of postal votes returned by overseas voters.

The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority and 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:

<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

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**The Electoral Commission**

[electoralcommission.org.uk](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk)