

[REDACTED]

From: FOI
Sent: 23 December 2020 14:36
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 153-20 - Response

Dear [REDACTED],

Our Ref: FOI-153-20

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 7 December 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.

There is currently a political party application in the name of Black Lives Matter.

Please can you advise the names of all the officers nominated for this party and the other product descriptions.

*Black Lives Matter
Black Lives Matter/All Lives Matter
Black Lives Matter for the GLA
Black Lives Matter Great Britain
Black Lives Matter (United Kingdom)
The Black Lives Matter Party
Black Lives Matter party of Wales / Plaid Wleidyddol Cymru Du Yn Byw
Black Lives Matter party of Scotland*

Upon request, you clarified that the phrase ‘...other product descriptions’ was used to include the Party names listed and you wished us to provide the names of the officers, if different from the named party Black Lives Matter.

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested.

Regarding your request for names of prospective officers, we are unable to disclose the names of these individuals to you. This is because this information is exempt under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 40(2) provides for an exemption where the information requested constitutes personal data and releasing the information would breach one of the data protection principles under the GDPR.

An application to register a political party must satisfy certain requirements under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). One of these requirements, outlined in paragraph 4 of Schedule 4 of PERPA, is that the application includes the names and home address of the proposed officers of the party.

If the application to register the party is granted then, under s28(8) of PPERA, the names of those officers are included on that party's entry on the [register](#). However, until a decision has been taken on the application, there is no provision to release the names of proposed officers of a party.

As the names of these individuals constitute personal information, releasing them would be a breach of the GDPR principles, and so we have refused this part of your request, prior to us taking a decision on the application.

With respect to the second part of your request, parties can apply to be registered with up to twelve "descriptions". These are optional identity marks which, for most types of elections, parties can use in place of the party name on ballot papers. The descriptions you have listed are the ones which the party has applied to be registered with, in addition to the name "Black Lives Matter". This means that the descriptions have been proposed by the same officers that have proposed the party name.

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-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)