
From: FOI
Sent: 05 March 2018 16:59
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: FOI <FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: FOI 032/18 Multiple Voting - Response

Dear [REDACTED]

Our Ref: FOI 032/18

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated **23 February 2018**.

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.

Could you let me know what progress your Commission has made regarding the question of multiple voting, mainly by students, in the General Election of 2017?

Is this investigation still ongoing?

Our response is as follows:

We hold some of the information you have requested.

The Electoral Commission does not investigate allegations of electoral fraud. Allegations which may involve criminal offences are for the relevant police force and prosecuting authorities to investigate and prosecute.

Following the general election, the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) collated information from police forces across the UK about the current status of their investigations into allegations of double voting. In December 2017 we reported¹ that a total of 17 individual allegations of double voting had been identified from claims made directly to the police or indirectly via elected representatives, the press or social media.

We have recently published data on our website about the number of allegations of electoral fraud which were recorded by police forces across the UK during 2017, including data on allegations of double voting: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/find-information-by-subject/electoral-fraud/data-and-analysis>

By the end of January 2018, we had received notification from police forces across the UK of five allegations of electoral fraud which related to double voting.

One of these cases has resulted in a conviction. The offender was fined £150, ordered to pay £200 costs and a £30 victim surcharge. They were also banned for three years from registering and

¹ https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/238044/The-administration-of-the-June-2017-UK-general-election.pdf

voting in any election in the UK and are not permitted to be elected to the House of Commons or hold any such elected office for the same period.



Two cases resulted in no further action following the conclusion of police investigations; in one case following liaison with the Crown Prosecution Service was deemed not in the public interest to prosecute; and the remaining case is still under investigation.

The remaining 12 allegations may not have been recorded by police forces, or may have been included in the data returns which had not been submitted to us by the police by 31 January 2018. 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: <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,


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