From: FOI
Sent: 26 January 2021 16:09
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 162-20 - Response

Dear [redacted]

Our Ref: FOI 162-20

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act dated 22/12/2020.

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

Your request is shown below followed by our response.

I wish to make a Freedom of Information Act request. The information I require is, with regard to the PPERA 2010: All documents, guides, handbooks, internal advice etc of whatever nature and format that instructs or suggests to the Electoral Commission staff that, provided a political party submits its accounts on time, there is nothing that the Electoral Commission can do to questions their accuracy, even when they have good grounds for doing so.

Our response is as follows:

We do not hold the information you have requested.

In separate correspondence the Commission has explained to you that there are no standards or requirements imposed under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 or other legislation relating to the content or format of statements of accounts delivered to the Commission.

Our forms of internal guidance of the type your request refers to cover matters where PPERA does impose requirements, and guides our staff on resolving situations where those requirements are not met. You can see how this operates in, for example, our published Enforcement Policy. In paragraph 6.4 we explain that a primary consideration when deciding whether to assess a matter is whether it is within our enforcement remit. If it is not, then our enforcement processes do not apply.

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: 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 Team
The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk