From: FOI
Sent: 17 April 2018 11:43
To: [redacted]
Cc: FOI <FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: FOI 062/18 Evidence of electoral fraud - Response

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI 062/18

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated **10 April 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.

FOIA REQUEST 2:

Do you hold any record of evidence that vote fraud was committed at the June 23rd 2016 United Kingdom European Union membership referendum? If so, then please send to me a copy of that record of evidence.

FOIA REQUEST 4:

Do you hold any record of evidence that electoral fraud was committed at the June 8th 2017 United Kingdom general election? If so, then please send to me a copy of that record of evidence.

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.

Data on allegations of cases of electoral fraud

The Electoral Commission collects, analyses and publishes data from UK police forces about cases of alleged electoral fraud that they have recorded each year.

In March 2017, we published data on about the number of allegations of electoral fraud which were recorded by police forces across the UK during 2016. This included any allegations that related to the referendum of the UK's membership of the EU.

In March 2018, we published data about the number of allegations of electoral fraud which were recorded by police forces across the UK during 2017. This included any allegations of electoral fraud relating to the June 8 general election and any up-dates from 2016 which includes allegations relating to the EU referendum.

Any further updates on allegations relating to 2016 and 2017 will be published in March 2019 when we publish our analysis of allegations of electoral fraud recorded by the police during 2018.

You can find all this information on our web-site:

https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/find-information-by-subject/electoral-fraud/data-and-analysis

Allegations of electoral fraud

2016 EU referendum

The data we have published shows that 70 allegations of electoral fraud relating to the 2016 referendum were reported to police forces.

In 45 cases the police took no further action following the conclusion of their investigations.

This included cases where the activity involved was not in fact an offence (14 cases), where there was no evidence that an offence had been committed (24 cases), or where there was insufficient evidence to identify an offender (5 cases). It also included cases which, following investigation, were found not to have involved electoral fraud offences (1 case). There was an additional case where the police reported 'no further action' with no explanation as to why.

Additionally, 15 cases were locally resolved by police forces, with informal advice given either by the police or the Returning Officer.

One offender was given a conviction and two offenders accepted a police caution.

We are awaiting an up-date on a further three cases are still either remain under investigation or awaiting prosecution advice.

The remaining cases were categorised by the police as having an outcome of 'other' as such as not being in the public interest to prosecute or a lack of evidence.

June 2017 UK Parliamentary general election

There were a total of 160 allegations of electoral fraud reported to the police that related to the UK general election.

In 45 cases the police took no further action following the conclusion of their investigations.

This included cases where the activity involved was not in fact an offence (34cases), where there was no evidence that an offence had been committed (34 cases), or where there was insufficient evidence to identify an offender (40 cases). It also included cases which, following investigation, were found not to have involved electoral fraud offences (8 cases).

Additionally, 18 cases were locally resolved by police forces, with informal advice given either by the police or the Returning Officer.

One offender was given a conviction and one offender accepted a police caution.

We are awaiting an up-date on a further 20 cases are still either remain under investigation or awaiting prosecution advice.

The remaining cases were categorised by the police as having an outcome of ‘other’ such as not being in the public interest to prosecute or a lack of evidence.

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,

[redacted]
Information Management Adviser
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London EC1Y 8YZ
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk
yourvotematters.co.uk

Twitter | **Facebook** | **Blog**