From: FOI
Sent: 08 May 2018 18:30
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 065/18 English Democrats Financial Scheme Response

Dear [redacted]

Our Ref: FOI 065/18

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated **18 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.

Is it possible you can send over English Democrats financial scheme?

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested.

Please find attached the financial scheme.

Please note that the financial scheme names the party as the 'English National Party'. This is because this is the name the party first registered with. The party name was changed at a later date.

I trust that this information satisfies your request. The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority.

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]
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ENGLISH NATIONAL PARTY: FINANCIAL SCHEME

Introduction

1) This scheme sets out how the English National Party will regulate its financial affairs for the purpose of compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 ("the Act").

Constitution

2) A copy of the English National Party constitution, including details of its structure and organisation, and how these are determined, is enclosed.

Accounting Units

3) The English National Party does not wish to have any accounting units separate from its central organisation.

Other Organisations within the Party

4) The English National Party's constitution provides for the establishment of ward branches and the affiliation of other bodies within the party. No such bodies have been established to date.

   For the purpose of compliance with the Act the financial affairs of any newly established ward branches or affiliated organisations, are wholly controlled by the party treasurer.

Role of the Party Treasurer

5) The registered Treasurer of the English National Party is responsible for the whole Party's compliance with the financial provisions of the Act and in particular for:

   a) setting up and maintaining accounting records capable of meeting the accounting record keeping requirements of the Act;

   b) setting up and maintaining arrangements for ensuring that annual statements of accounts for the party are prepared, approved, audited if necessary and submitted to the Electoral Commission on time;

   c) developing and putting in place arrangements to ensure that any impermissible or unidentifiable donations of more than £200 to the party are recorded and returned to sender or, if that is not possible, surrendered to the Commission;

   d) developing and putting in place arrangements for recording donations of more than £200 and for the submission of quarterly donation reports covering donations exceeding £5,000 and any impermissible or anonymous donations of more than £200; submitting a nil return if there are no reportable donations;

   e) developing a plan for ensuring weekly donation reports can be submitted during general election periods;

   f) ensuring that the incurring of campaign expenditure and the payment of claims are duly authorised and that all relevant receipts and invoices are kept;

   g) developing and implementing a campaign expenditure budget that complies with the limits, together with arrangements for monitoring compliance;

h) developing a plan to ensure the compilation, auditing (if necessary) and timely submission to the Commission of a campaign expenditure return when the campaign is over;

i) if there is a referendum to which Part VII of the Act applies, developing and putting in place arrangements for complying with the controls on referendum expenditure (this will be done by adapting the party's arrangements for the control of campaign expenditure); and

j) ensuring that any grants from the commission to the party are spent in accordance with the conditions of grant imposed by the Commission.

k) being responsible for the compliance of ward branches with the financial requirements of the Act.

Deputy Treasurers with Responsibility for Campaign Expenditure

6) The English National Party does not intend to appoint any deputy Treasurers with responsibility for campaign expenditure.

Promoting Compliance with the Act

7) The party Treasurer will ensure that the party Leader and all other officers and members of the English National Party have sufficient knowledge of the Party's financial obligations under the Act to ensure that the party as a whole complies with these obligations.

Financial Year

8) The Party's financial year will run from 1st January to 31st December.

Amendments to the Financial Scheme

9) The party Treasurer will ensure that any proposed amendments to this financial scheme are submitted to the Electoral Commission for approval.