From:	FOI
To:	[redacted]
Subject:	FOI 082/18 Vote Leave Football Contest - Response
Date:	21 June 2018 12:45:05
Attachments:	REDACTED - Enquiries - Vote Leave Competition.pdf

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI 082/18

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated **28 May 2018,** received by the Commission on **29 May 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.

1) All internal correspondence and communications that mentions, or refers to, Vote Leave's £50 million football contest.

2) All external correspondence and communications that mentions, or refers to, Vote Leave's £50 million football contest.

I define "correspondence and communications" as including (but not limited to) the following:
- Emails (and their attachments)
- Complaints (and subsequent investigations and outcomes)
- Press inquiries
- Letters
- Memos
- Briefings
- Research documents
- Press clippings
- Invitations
- Presentation slides
- Notes taken during telephone conversations

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested.

The Commission has previously released correspondence between us and Vote Leave as part of FOI 149/17 and FOI 186/17. The scope of these responses cover the period from 1 January 2016 until 26 November 2017.

All internal correspondence that mentions or refers to Vote Leave's competition was also included in our response to FOI 149/17. This correspondence may be found on pages 210-215 of our response.

We are also releasing all enquiries that the Commission has received relating to the competition as well as our responses to them.

Exemptions under Section 40

You will notice that certain personal details have been redacted from the documents we are releasing. This redaction is necessary because section 40(2) and (3)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI) Act provides that personal data, where its disclosure would breach one of the data protection principles, is exempt from disclosure.

The first data protection principle states that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully. The Commission considers that it would be unfair to release the names and personal contact details of junior officials, who were not employed in public facing roles and did not act as spokespersons for their employer, as those individuals would have a reasonable expectation that this personal data would not be disclosed to the general public.

The Commission also considers that it would be unfair to release the names and personal contract details of enquirers, as those individuals would have a reasonable expectation that their personal details would not be disclosed to the general public.

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]

Access to Information Officer (FOI & DPA)
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London EC1Y 8YZ
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk
yourvotematters.co.uk

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

From: [redacted]
Sent: 31 May 2016 19:07
To: info_inbox
Subject: New contact form submission

- Your name: [redacted]
- Your email: [redacted]
- Your telephone number: [redacted]
- Your region/country: Wales
- I am a...: a member of the public
- Comment/enquiry type: other
- Comments: I would like to register a complaint about the Vote Leave Campaign Broadcast shown on BBC One following the 6 o'clock news. The beginning of the broadcast encouraged people to visit the website 50million.uk to have a chance of winning £50m. The website then contains information about why Britain should leave the EU. It feels as if the campaign is effectively bribing viewers to visit it's site and read it's opinions. How is this legal? It is clearly unethical and amoral.
- Eich Enw:
- Eich e-bost:
- Eich rhif ffôn:
- Eich rhanbarth/gwlad:
- Rwyf yn...:
- Math o sylw/ymholiad:
- Sylwadau:

---------- Original Message ----------
From: PEF Inbox
Received: 09/06/2016 09:36
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: New contact form submission

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your enquiry.

The Electoral Commission is responsible for regulating the rules on funding and spending in the run-up to the EU Referendum. We do not regulate referendum broadcasts. The designated lead campaigners are responsible for providing the content for referendum broadcasts, and additionally, the BBC must comply with the BBC Editorial Guidelines.

If you are concerned that a broadcast on the BBC breached the guidelines that have been set, the BBC Trust is responsible for regulating this. You can find information about the BBC Trust's complaints framework and information about how to make a complaint here: http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust/governance/complaints_framework/

We are aware of the competition you refer to in your email. The competition constitutes referendum campaigning and money spent on administering it will count towards Vote Leave's spending limit and must be reported to us after the referendum.

Bribery is a criminal offence under electoral law. We do not consider that the competition itself constitutes bribery, as it does not induce a voter to vote a certain way or to not vote. The competition's terms and conditions make clear that it is open to voters regardless of their voting intention.

I hope the above is helpful to you. If you do have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us on 0333 103 1928 or e-mail the party and election finance inbox at pef@electoralcommission.org.uk .

Kind regards,

[redacted]
Guidance Advisor
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ
[redacted]
Fax: [redacted]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

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You can now register to vote online
Follow us on **Twitter** | Like us on **Facebook** | Read our **Blog**
We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English
Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 02 June 2016 18:06
To: info_inbox
Subject: New contact form submission

- Your name: [redacted]
- Your email: [redacted]
- Your telephone number: [redacted]
- Your region/country: London
- I am a...: a member of the public
- Comment/enquiry type: administration of elections
- Comments: IS the VOTE LEAVE campaign -offering £50 million to voters who register with their campaign and correctly predicting the result of all 51 games in the Euro 2016 football championships- legal?? This seems a lot like bribing the public to vote and/or look at their campaign via a financial incentive??
- Eich Enw:
- Eich e-bost:
- Eich rhif ffôn:
- Eich rhanbarth/gwlad:
- Rwyf yn...:
- Math o sylw/ymholiad:
- Sylwadau:

---------- Original Message ----------
From: PEF Inbox
Received: 07/06/2016 15:49
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: New contact form submission

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your email.

The Electoral Commission is responsible for regulating the rules on funding and spending in the run-up to the EU Referendum.

We are aware of the competition you refer to in your email. The competition constitutes referendum campaigning and money spent on it will count towards Vote Leave's spending limit and must be reported to us after the referendum.

Vote Leave indicate that the £50 million prize would be paid by an insurance company, and the prize, should it be awarded, would be paid after the conclusion of the referendum period on 23 June. As campaigners only need to account for spending up to that date, the prize itself does not constitute referendum spending. We are in regular contact with campaigners to make sure that they fully understand the referendum rules and their responsibilities as registered campaigners, and we will be monitoring this competition over the next few weeks to ensure all relevant costs are fully accounted for in Vote Leave's spending return.

Bribery is a criminal offence under electoral law. We do not consider that the competition you refer to constitutes bribery, as it does not induce a voter to vote a certain way or to not vote. The competition's terms and conditions make clear that it is open to voters regardless of their voting intention.

I trust this is helpful. If we can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us on pef@electoralcommission.org.uk, or by phone on 0333 103 1928.

Kind regards,

[redacted]
Guidance Adviser
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ
Fax: [redacted]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 07 June 2016 19:22
To: info_inbox
Subject: New contact form submission

- Your name: [redacted]
- Your email: [redacted]
- Your telephone number:
- Your region/country: South East
- I am a...: a member of the public
- Comment/enquiry type: electoral fraud
- Comments: On Facebook, I've had adverts from the Leave EU side which offer a chance to gamble on football to win £50,000 "guaranteed by Lloyds". Is it legal for any party in an election or referendum to offer such gifts in its campaign? Thanks and Regards, [redacted]
- Eich Enw:
- Eich e-bost:
- Eich rhif ffôn:
- Eich rhanbarth/gwlad:
- Rwyf yn...:
- Math o sylw/ymholiad:
- Sylwadau:

--- Original Message -----
From: PEF Inbox
To: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2016 10:01 AM
Subject: RE: New contact form submission

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email.

The Electoral Commission is responsible for regulating the rules on funding and spending in the run-up to the EU Referendum.

We are aware of the competition you refer to in your email. The competition constitutes referendum campaigning and money spent on it will count towards Vote Leave's spending limit and must be reported to us after the referendum.

Vote Leave indicate that the £50 million prize would be paid by an insurance company, and the prize, should it be awarded, would be paid after the conclusion of the referendum period on 23 June. As campaigners only need to account for spending up to that date, the prize itself does not constitute referendum spending. We are in regular contact with campaigners to make sure that they fully understand the referendum rules and their responsibilities as registered campaigners, and we will be monitoring this competition over the next few weeks to ensure all relevant costs are fully accounted for in Vote Leave's spending return.

Bribery is a criminal offence under electoral law. We do not consider that the competition you refer to constitutes bribery, as it does not induce a voter to vote a certain way or to not vote. The competition's terms and conditions make clear that it is open to voters regardless of their voting intention.

I hope the above is helpful to you. If you have any further questions, or require any further clarification please do not hesitate to contact the party and election finance advice line on 0333 103 1928 or e-mail at pef@electoralcommission.org.uk.

Kind regards,

[redacted]
Guidance Adviser
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ
[redacted]
Fax: [redacted]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

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P Please consider the environment before printing this email.

---------- Original Message ----------
From: [redacted]
Received: 08/06/2016 10:49
To: PEF Inbox
Subject: Re: New contact form submission

Ordinary campaign expenses go to advertising agencies, publishers, web designers etc. for the cost of producing and distributing material favourable to the campaign paying those bodies for their services.

Let us not forget that this case does not conform to that normal flow of funds. Here, we see funds diverted directly to voters in order to enrich them. The intention of that diverision is clear. It is to sway the voting intentions of those members of the public who will believe that they will benefit in cash from the expenditure of that side.

Regards,

[redacted]

---------- Original Message ----------
From: [redacted]
Sent: 01 June 2016 17:09
To: PEF Inbox
Subject: Complaint about financial inducement

I'm unclear whether this is within your remit, but I thought that a political campaign was unable to offer a financial inducement?

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-36397725

Thanks for your time,

[redacted]

---------- Original Message ----------
From: PEF Inbox
Received: 06/06/2016 12:01
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Complaint about financial inducement

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email.

The Electoral Commission is responsible for regulating the rules on funding and spending in the run-up to the EU Referendum.

We are aware of the competition you refer to in your email. The competition constitutes referendum campaigning and money spent on it will count towards Vote Leave's spending limit and must be reported to us after the referendum.

Vote Leave indicate that the £50 million prize would be paid by an insurance company, and the prize, should it be awarded, would be paid after the conclusion of the referendum period on 23 June. As campaigners only need to account for spending up to that date, the prize itself does not constitute referendum spending. We are in regular contact with campaigners to make sure that they fully understand the referendum rules and their responsibilities as registered campaigners, and we will be monitoring this competition over the next few weeks to ensure all relevant costs are fully accounted for in Vote Leave's spending return.

Bribery is a criminal offence under electoral law. We do not consider that the competition you refer to constitutes bribery, as it does not induce a voter to vote a certain way or to not vote. The competition's terms and conditions make clear that it is open to voters regardless of their voting intention.

I hope the above is helpful to you. If you have any further questions, or require any further clarification please do not hesitate to contact the party and election finance advice line on 0333 103 1928 or e-mail at pef@electoralcommission.org.uk.

Kind regards,

[redacted]
Guidance Adviser
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ
[redacted]
Fax: [redacted]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
www.aboutmyvote.co.uk
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-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: 31 May 2016 19:05
To: info_inbox
Subject: Vote leave TV advert

Hello

I cannot believe it is legal to link a football competition to a political campaign as the vote leave TV advert does

[redacted]
Sent from my iPhone

---------- Original Message ----------
From: PEF Inbox
Received: 03/06/2016 12:51
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Vote leave TV advert

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email.

The Electoral Commission is responsible for regulating the rules on funding and spending in the run-up to the EU Referendum.

We are aware of the competition you refer to in your email. The competition constitutes referendum campaigning and money spent on it will count towards Vote Leave's spending limit and must be reported to us after the referendum.

Vote Leave indicate that the £50 million prize would be paid by an insurance company, and the prize, should it be awarded, would be paid after the conclusion of the referendum period on 23 June. As campaigners only need to account for spending up to that date, the prize itself does not constitute referendum spending. We are in regular contact with campaigners to make sure that they fully understand the referendum rules and their responsibilities as registered campaigners, and we will be monitoring this competition over the next few weeks to ensure all relevant costs are fully accounted for in Vote Leave's spending return.

Bribery is a criminal offence under electoral law. We do not consider that the competition you refer to constitutes bribery, as it does not induce a voter to vote a certain way or to not vote. The competition's terms and conditions make clear that it is open to voters regardless of their voting intention.

I trust this is helpful. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to get back to us on 0333 103 1928 or at pef@electoralcommission.org.uk.

Kind regards,

[redacted]
Guidance Adviser
The Electoral Commission

3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ
Fax: [redacted]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

---------- Original Message ----------
From: [redacted]
Sent: 31 May 2016 19:22
To: info_inbox
Subject: New contact form submission

- Your name: [redacted]
- Your email: [redacted]
- Your telephone number: [redacted]
- Your region/country: London
- I am a...: a member of the public
- Comment/enquiry type: electoral fraud
- Comments: I would like to lodge a complaint regarding the Brexit campaign's offer of a prize of £50 million pounds to anyone picking the correct scores in the Euro's (football). Even though this is free to enter, it takes the punter to an anti- remain site. To me this is a bribe (even though the chances of winning are small). If you divide the insurance policy the Brexit campaign have taken out by the number of entrants you will arrive at a sum of money. So, each entrant is being funded into the draw (it may only be for a few pence or pounds), but this still smacks of vote buying, which is illegal in this country. I refer you to: The most famous episodes of vote buying came in 18th century England, when two or more rich aristocrats spent whatever money it took to win. The notorious "Spendthrift election" came in Northamptonshire in 1768, when three earls spent over £100,000 each to win a seat.[24] Voters may be given money or other rewards for voting in a particular way, or not voting. In some jurisdictions, the offer or giving of other rewards* is referred to as "electoral treating".[25] * i think that the chance to win £50m falls into the category of other rewards,
- Eich Enw:
- Eich e-bost:
- Eich rhif ffôn:
- Eich rhanbarth/gwlad:
- Rwyf yn...:
- Math o sylw/ymholiad:
- Sylwadau:

---------- Original Message ----------
From: PEF Inbox
Received: 03/06/2016 12:56
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: New contact form submission

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email.

The Electoral Commission is responsible for regulating the rules on funding and spending in the run-up to the EU Referendum.

We are aware of the competition you refer to in your email. The competition constitutes referendum campaigning and money spent on it will count towards Vote Leave's spending limit and must be reported to us after the referendum.

Vote Leave indicate that the £50 million prize would be paid by an insurance company, and the prize, should it be awarded, would be paid after the conclusion of the referendum period on 23 June. As campaigners only need to account for spending up to that date, the prize itself does not constitute referendum spending. We are in regular contact with campaigners to make sure that they fully understand the referendum rules and their responsibilities as registered campaigners, and we will be monitoring this competition over the next few weeks to ensure all relevant costs are fully accounted for in Vote Leave's spending return.

Bribery is a criminal offence under electoral law. We do not consider that the competition you refer to constitutes bribery, as it does not induce a voter to vote a certain way or to not vote. The competition's terms and conditions make clear that it is open to voters regardless of their voting intention.

I trust this is helpful. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to get back to us on 0333 103 1928 or at pef@electoralcommission.org.uk.

Kind regards,

[redacted]
Guidance Adviser
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ
Fax: [redacted]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

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---------- Original Message ----------
From: [redacted]
Sent: 01 June 2016 08:34
To: info_inbox
Subject: New contact form submission

- Your name: [redacted]
- Your email: [redacted]
- Your telephone number: [redacted]
- Your region/country: Wales
- I am a...: a member of the public
- Comment/enquiry type: candidate/party spending/funding
- Comments: The leave Britain campaign are running a competition to give £50,000,000 to someone who correctly guesses the winner of the euro 16 football competition. How are they allowed to spend their funding on a competition, and does this count as an attempt to buy votes
- Eich Enw:
- Eich e-bost:
- Eich rhif ffôn:
- Eich rhanbarth/gwlad:
- Rwyf yn...:
- Math o sylw/ymholiad:
- Sylwadau:

---------- Original Message ----------
From: PEF Inbox
Received: 06/06/2016 11:55
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: New contact form submission

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email.

The Electoral Commission is responsible for regulating the rules on funding and spending in the run-up to the EU Referendum.

We are aware of the competition you refer to in your email. The competition constitutes referendum campaigning and money spent on it will count towards Vote Leave's spending limit and must be reported to us after the referendum.

Vote Leave indicate that the £50 million prize would be paid by an insurance company, and the prize, should it be awarded, would be paid after the conclusion of the referendum period on 23 June. As campaigners only need to account for spending up to that date, the prize itself does not constitute referendum spending. We are in regular contact with campaigners to make sure that they fully understand the referendum rules and their responsibilities as registered campaigners, and we will be monitoring this competition over the next few weeks to ensure all relevant costs are fully accounted for in Vote Leave's spending return.

Bribery is a criminal offence under electoral law. We do not consider that the competition you refer to constitutes bribery, as it does not induce a voter to vote a certain way or to not vote. The competition's terms and conditions make clear that it is open to voters regardless of their voting intention.

I hope the above is helpful to you. If you have any further questions, or require any further clarification please do not hesitate to contact the party and election finance advice line on 0333 103 1928 or e-mail at pef@electoralcommission.org.uk.

Kind regards,

[redacted]
Guidance Adviser
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ
[redacted]
Fax: [redacted]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
www.aboutmyvote.co.uk
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---------- Original Message ----------
From: [redacted]
Sent: 27 May 2016 20:07
To: info_inbox
Subject: New contact form submission

- Your name: [redacted]
- Your email: [redacted]
- Your telephone number:
- Your region/country: East Midlands
- I am a...: a member of the public
- Comment/enquiry type: electoral fraud
- Comments: I have found an advert from the Vote Leave campaign where they promised to pay out £50 million to people who guess all of the European Championships correctly. They asked me in the ad to sign up to have a chance of the money. They wanted me to sign up to 50million.co.uk I saw this at about 18:00-19:00 on 27/6/2016 This was an YouTube Ad before watching the video. They also have the ad on their channel. On their channel it has a lot of videos about the benefits leaving the EU and speeches from the Leading figures in the Vote Leave Campaign. The video information says it has been placed 5 hours ago at 19:50. This was at 27/6/2016 All of the links in the about section leads back to the Vote Leave campaigns official Twitter, Facebook, website and Instagram. All of this is illegal as it is bribing the electorates. It is also advertised as they would pay out the money to someone. The links are here. Sign up to win £50 million pounds Ad. https://youtu.be/wnhr-Y-udy8 Propaganda NHS EU and Non-EU https://youtu.be/LtlGN8wVnis Twitter links back to campaign https://mobile.twitter.com/vote_leave Boris speech https://youtu.be/piihgjW_oAg[redacted]
- Eich Enw:
- Eich e-bost:
- Eich rhif ffôn:
- Eich rhanbarth/gwlad:
- Rwyf yn...:
- Math o sylw/ymholiad:
- Sylwadau:

---------- Original Message ----------
From: PEF Inbox
Received: 03/06/2016 12:47
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: New contact form submission

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email.

The Electoral Commission is responsible for regulating the rules on funding and spending in the run-up to the EU Referendum.

We are aware of the competition you refer to in your email. The competition constitutes referendum campaigning and money spent on it will count towards Vote Leave's spending limit and must be reported to us after the referendum.

Vote Leave indicate that the £50 million prize would be paid by an insurance company, and the prize, should it be awarded, would be paid after the conclusion of the referendum period on 23 June. As campaigners only need to account for spending up to that date, the prize itself does not constitute referendum spending. We are in regular contact with campaigners to make sure that they fully understand the referendum rules and their responsibilities as registered campaigners, and we will be monitoring this competition over the next few weeks to ensure all relevant costs are fully accounted for in Vote Leave's spending return.

Bribery is a criminal offence under electoral law. We do not consider that the competition you refer to constitutes bribery, as it does not induce a voter to vote a certain way or to not vote. The competition's terms and conditions make clear that it is open to voters regardless of their voting intention.

I trust this is helpful. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to get back to us on 0333 103 1928 or at pef@electoralcommission.org.uk.

Kind regards,

[redacted]
Guidance Adviser
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ
Fax: [redacted]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: 01 June 2016 11:24
To: info_inbox
Subject: Fwd: Urgent - £50 MILLION being offered by Vote Leave

Dear Sir or Madam,

You may have seen that Vote Leave is offering prizes of £50 million for a competition (see link below):

https://50million.uk/

Is this permissible under the regulations pertaining to referenda?

This needs your urgent attention in the light of the timescale and magnitude of the money involved.

Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]

---------- Original Message ----------
From: PEF Inbox
Received: 03/06/2016 13:41
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Urgent - £50 MILLION being offered by Vote Leave

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email.

The Electoral Commission is responsible for regulating the rules on funding and spending in the run-up to the EU Referendum.

We are aware of the competition you refer to in your email. The competition constitutes referendum campaigning and money spent on it will count towards Vote Leave's spending limit and must be reported to us after the referendum.

Vote Leave indicate that the £50 million prize would be paid by an insurance company, and the prize, should it be awarded, would be paid after the conclusion of the referendum period on 23 June. As campaigners only need to account for spending up to that date, the prize itself does not constitute referendum spending. We are in regular contact with campaigners to make sure that they fully understand the referendum rules and their responsibilities as registered campaigners, and we will be monitoring this competition over the next few weeks to ensure all relevant costs are fully accounted for in Vote Leave's spending return.

Bribery is a criminal offence under electoral law. We do not consider that the competition you refer to constitutes bribery, as it does not induce a voter to vote a certain way or to not vote. The competition's terms and conditions make clear that it is open to voters regardless of their voting intention.

I trust this is helpful. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to get back to us on 0333 103 1928 or at pef@electoralcommission.org.uk.

Kind regards,

[redacted]
Guidance Adviser
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ
Fax: [redacted]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

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