

From: [FOI](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 116/18 - Local Election spend, Borough of Hartlepool - Response
Date: 24 July 2018 13:25:40

Dear [REDACTED],

Our Ref: FOI 116/18

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated **19 July 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. I am emailing you to request under the Freedom of Information Act a copy of the election spending records for each candidate submitted for the recent Local Council Elections held on May 3rd 2018, for the Borough of Hartlepool.**

Our response is as follows:

We do not hold the information you have requested.

We do not hold copies of the candidate spending returns for these candidates. Returning Officers are required to provide copies of returns for Parliamentary General Elections to the Electoral Commission, but are not required to provide returns for local government elections.

All candidates who contested the local elections on 3 May 2018 had to submit their returns of candidate spending, along with the appropriate invoices and receipts, to the Returning Officer within 35 days of the declaration of the result. The Returning Officer is the holder of this information and has a duty to make the returns available for inspection.

You should contact the Returning Officer to arrange to inspect the returns and supporting documentation from the candidates. Returning Officers are specified in the RPA 1983, section 24 for England and Wales, section 25 for Scotland and section 26 for Northern Ireland. In England and Wales the specified RO is often a ceremonial office-holder – Sherriff or Mayor – and so, in practice, an (Acting) Returning Officer is appointed to be responsible for managing the administration of the election.

The Acting Returning Officer for a local authority is normally a senior paid officer, in most cases the Chief Executive, a Director or senior lawyer. I therefore recommend that you address any request to 'The (Acting) Returning Officer for the relevant constituency.

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,



Access to Information Officer (FOI & DPA)

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