From: FOI
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 126/18 - Fishing for Leave spending return and officials
Date: 28 August 2018 13:42:08

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI 126/18

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated **30 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 looking to ascertain the accounts and electoral spending of the campaigning group 'Fishing for Leave' (company number: SC543631, electoral commission identifier: PerPar4169), who according to Company House have no records to show. Companies House's web site also shows that they are now due to be struck off, and I am looking to ascertain why this decision was made and if any sanction has been placed on the organisation.
2. In addition, I would like to know the details of appointed officials attached to the organisation – according to electoral commission records, an official named Roderick McColl is listed but under Company House records there is no mention of him (only an Aaron Brown and a John Ashworth).

Our response is as follows:

We hold some of the information you have requested.

Permitted participants at the EU referendum were required to submit a spending return to the Commission after the EU referendum. Fishing for Leave reported spending £21,656.39 during the regulated period for the referendum (15 April 2016 to 23 June 2016) and you can see details of this spending on our online registers here. Permitted participants at the EU referendum were not required to submit accounts to the Electoral Commission and accordingly we do not hold this information.

With regards to information we hold on officials associated with Fishing for Leave, the only information we hold is that which appears on the register of permitted participants for the referendum which you have linked in your request. The legislation for the EU referendum required a perspective permitted participant to register a Responsible Person and a Secretary when notifying us. As mentioned previously, this information appears on our register.

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]
Access to Information Officer (FOI and DPA)

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