

From: FOI
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 146/18 - Breaches of campaign rules - Response
Date: 13 September 2018 12:42:29

Dear [REDACTED]

Our Ref: FOI 146/18

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated **07 September 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. May I please make a freedom of information request and enquire whether the Electoral Commission has ever identified breaches of campaign rules for the 2011 Alternative Vote Referendum, the 2004 North East England Devolution Referendum, the 2011 Alternative Vote Referendum, the 2011 Welsh Devolution Referendum and the 2014 Scottish Devolution Referendum, and if so, for details of any fines levied or any recommendations made?**

Our response is as follows:

We do hold the information you have requested.

The Commission was granted new powers to investigate and sanction offences under PPERA by Parliament in 2010. Since then we have published brief details of the outcome of all of our investigations on our website. At the time of the 2004 North East England Devolution referendum, the Commission did not conduct regulatory investigations or impose sanctions and did not therefore seek to identify breaches of PPERA. You can find the information about cases since 2010 at this link:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/our-work/roles-and-responsibilities/our-role-as-regulator-of-political-party-finance/sanctions>

As regards recommendations, I assume you are referring to recommendations for changes in the law. The Commission publishes a report after each major election and referendum, including recommendations. As you will appreciate there are many of these reports, and below is a link to our website page where the report for the 2017 UK Parliamentary General Election can be found. From the left hand side of the page you will be able to access reports for other elections and referendums.

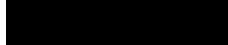
<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/find-information-by-subject/elections-and-referendums/past-elections-and-referendums>

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,



Access to Information Officer (FOI and DPA)

The Electoral Commission

FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk

electoralcommission.org.uk