[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 08 June 2021 16:10
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 071-21 - Response

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI-071-21

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 10 May 2021.

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 shown below followed by our response.

I am writing to you to request the following information.

1. Any internal Electoral Commission correspondence on the topic of the registration and changes to registered names or logos of the Independent Green Voice party which stood at the Scottish Parliament elections in 2021.

2. Correspondence with Independent Green Voice party figures about the potential for misleading voters due to their name and emblem.

3. Correspondence between the Electoral Commission and Scottish Green figures about the Independent Green Voice party, specifically concerns about potentially misleading voters.

Our response is as follows:

We hold some of the information you have requested.

We have considered the timeframe of the request to cover from 01 May 2020 to the time of your request on 10 May 2021.

We understand that the first part of your request refers to the recent application by Independent Green Voice to register a new emblem and description. We are making available to you internal correspondence in relation to the first part of your request.

We do not hold information in relation to the second part of your request.

You may be aware that the Commission routinely publishes on its website the names, descriptions and emblems it is considering as part of its registration assessment process. That is so anyone may put forth their comment for us to consider on a particular name, description or emblem. Via our website, people may subscribe to receive an email when that page is updated.

The subscription list is open to all, and we can confirm that some officials from Scottish Green Party are on that subscriber list and are sent those emails.

The emails we're disclosing, in response to the third part of your request, cover the time that details of the recent Independent Green Voice application to register a description and emblem were published on our website for public comment. We consider all public comments as part of our assessment process, but can confirm that no comments were received from Scottish Green Party officials, or others, in relation to the recent Independent Green Voice application.

To access all these documents you will need to use our secure document-sharing system, Objective Connect.

You will receive an 'Invitation to Objective Connect Email Notification' (sent to the inbox of [redacted]). This notification will contain a link to enable you to start accessing your information. Please find below details on how to access the specific area we have set up for your documents.

1. Click on the link in the email.
2. You will be prompted to set up your username and password. Your username will be your email address, and your password can be whatever you like.
3. With your username and password, enter both details at the login screen and click 'login'.
4. You will now see your personal page, which will show the Share 'FOI – 071-21'
5. By clicking on the name of the share, you will find your documents.
6. You may view any of these documents
7. In addition you may download a copy to your personal computer by selecting the 'download' option and then 'save'.

This service will be closed one month from our response date, this is the **8 July 2021, at 5pm.**

Please note that we are not able to comply fully with your request for information for the following reason:

Exemption under section 40(2):

Information is exempt under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) where release of the information would breach one of the data protection principles in the GDPR. One of the principles states that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully.

Some of the information contained in the requested information falls within the description of personal data because the information relates directly to an identifiable living individual. Disclosure of this information would breach the first data protection principle, which states the information must be processed fairly and lawfully. Any personal data that is not already in the public domain has been redacted.

Under this provision, we have also redacted the names of Commission staff below Head level. This is because those members of staff have a reasonable expectation that their personal details will not be made public.

The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority and I trust that this information satisfies your request. 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: https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/freedom-information/make-a-freedom-information-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

Information Officer
FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

E-mail

05 March 2021 - Not...

Sent Date 05/03/2021 16:20

E-mail

From Partyreg **Cc**

To [redacted]

Subject 05 March 2021 - Notice of proposed names, descriptions and emblems CCM:0553213

Good afternoon,

We recently published on our website the notices of proposed names, descriptions and emblems which you can find here –

https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/party-registration-applications/view-current-applications

If you wish to comment on whether a proposed party name, description or emblem should be registered please reply to this email or complete the form available on this page.

An overview of the rules on what can be registered as a name, description and emblem by the Commission can be found here

The Electoral Commission
0333 103 1928
electoralcommission.org.uk

You have received this email because you asked to be informed when new notices of proposed party names, descriptions and emblems are made available for comment. If you no longer wish to receive these emails please reply to this email with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line

Regarding 2021 Public Notices

Owner [redacted]

Keywords

Duration **Priority** Normal

Due

Category **Sub-Category**

[redacted]

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category	PEF Category

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

File Name	File Size (Bytes)
No E-Mail Attachment records are available in this view.	

0 - 0 of 0 (0 selected) Page 1

Status Reason Sent

E-mail

12 February 2021 - N...

Sent Date 12/02/2021 18:45

E-mail

From Partyreg **Cc**

To [redacted]

Subject 12 February 2021 - Notice of proposed names, descriptions and emblems CCM:0288516

Good evening,

We recently published on our website the notices of proposed names, descriptions and emblems which you can find here –

https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/party-registration-applications/view-current-applications

If you wish to comment on whether a proposed party name, description or emblem should be registered please reply to this email or complete the form available on this page.

An overview of the rules on what can be registered as a name, description and emblem by the Commission can be found here.

The Electoral Commission
0333 103 1928
electoralcommission.org.uk

You have received this email because you asked to be informed when new notices of proposed party names, descriptions and emblems are made available for comment. If you no longer wish to receive these emails please reply to this email with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Regarding 2021 Public Notices

Owner [redacted]

Keywords

Duration **Priority** Normal

Due

[redacted]

Category	Sub-Category

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category	PEF Category

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

File Name	File Size (Bytes)
No E-Mail Attachment records are available in this view.	

0 - 0 of 0 (0 selected) Page 1

Status Reason Sent

E-mail

19 February 2021 No...

Sent Date 19/02/2021 15:50

E-mail

From Partyreg **Cc**

To [redacted]

Subject 19 February 2021 Notice of proposed names, descriptions and emblem CCM:0553167

Good afternoon,

We recently published on our website the notices of proposed names, descriptions and emblems which you can find here –

https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/party-registration-applications/view-current-applications

If you wish to comment on whether a proposed party name, description or emblem should be registered please reply to this email or complete the form available on this page.

An overview of the rules on what can be registered as a name, description and emblem by the Commission can be found here

The Electoral Commission
0333 103 1928
electoralcommission.org.uk

You have received this email because you asked to be informed when new notices of proposed party names, descriptions and emblems are made available for comment. If you no longer wish to receive these emails please reply to this email with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line

Regarding 2021 Public Notices

Owner [redacted]

Keywords

Duration **Priority** Normal

Due

Category **Sub-Category**

[redacted]

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category	PEF Category

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

File Name	File Size (Bytes)
No E-Mail Attachment records are available in this view.	

0 - 0 of 0 (0 selected) Page 1

Status Reason Sent

E-mail

24 March 2021 Notic...

Sent Date 24/03/2021 17:42

E-mail

From [redacted] **Cc**

To [redacted] **Bcc** [redacted]

Subject 24 March 2021 Notice of proposed names, descriptions and emblem CCM:0462541

Good Evening,

We recently published on our website the notices of proposed names, descriptions and emblems which you can find here – https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/party-registration-applications/view-current-applications

If you wish to comment on whether a proposed party name, description or emblem should be registered please reply to this email or complete the form available on this page.

An overview of the rules on what can be registered as a name, description and emblem by the Commission can be found here

The Electoral Commission
0333 103 1928
electoralcommission.org.uk

You have received this email because you asked to be informed when new notices of proposed party names, descriptions and emblems are made available for comment. If you no longer wish to receive these emails please reply to this email with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line

Regarding 2021 Public Notices

Owner [redacted]

Keywords

Duration **Priority** Normal

Due

Category	Sub-Category

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category	PEF Category

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

File Name	File Size (Bytes)
No E-Mail Attachment records are available in this view.	

0 - 0 of 0 (0 selected) Page 1

Status Reason	Sent

E-mail

25 February 2021 N...

Sent Date 26/02/2021 17:58

E-mail

From Partyreg **Cc**

To **Bcc** [redacted]

Subject 25 February 2021 Notice of proposed names, descriptions and emblems CCM:0488948

Good afternoon,

We recently published on our website the notices of proposed names, descriptions and emblems which you can find here –

https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/party-registration-applications/view-current-applications

If you wish to comment on whether a proposed party name, description or emblem should be registered please reply to this email or complete the form available on this page.

An overview of the rules on what can be registered as a name, description and emblem by the Commission can be found here

The Electoral Commission
0333 103 1928
electoralcommission.org.uk

You have received this email because you asked to be informed when new notices of proposed party names, descriptions and emblems are made available for comment. If you no longer wish to receive these emails please reply to this email with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line

Regarding 2021 Public Notices

Owner [redacted]

Keywords

Duration **Priority** Normal

Due

Category **Sub-Category**

[redacted]

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category	PEF Category

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

File Name	File Size (Bytes)
No E-Mail Attachment records are available in this view.	

0 - 0 of 0 (0 selected) Page 1

Status Reason Sent

E-mail

26 March 2021 Notic...

Sent Date 26/03/2021 12:02

E-mail

From [redacted] **Cc**

To [redacted] **Bcc** [redacted]

Subject 26 March 2021 Notice of proposed names, descriptions and emblem CCM:0553278

Good Afternoon,

We recently published on our website the notices of proposed names, descriptions and emblems which you can find here – https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/party-registration-applications/view-current-applications

If you wish to comment on whether a proposed party name, description or emblem should be registered please reply to this email or complete the form available on this page.

An overview of the rules on what can be registered as a name, description and emblem by the Commission can be found here

The Electoral Commission
0333 103 1928
electoralcommission.org.uk

You have received this email because you asked to be informed when new notices of proposed party names, descriptions and emblems are made available for comment. If you no longer wish to receive these emails please reply to this email with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line

Regarding 2021 Public Notices

Owner [redacted]

Keywords

Duration **Priority** Normal

Due

Category **Sub-Category**

[redacted]

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category	PEF Category

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

File Name	File Size (Bytes)
No E-Mail Attachment records are available in this view.	

0 - 0 of 0 (0 selected) Page 1

Status Reason Sent

[redacted]

From: Louise Edwards
Sent: 22 March 2021 20:55
To: [redacted] Andy O'Neill
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: PR21-09 comments due by noon Friday 19 March 2021 CCM:0288551

Hi

All of mine are done. Over to Andy on the SNP!

Thanks

Louise

From: [redacted]
Sent: 22 March 2021 15:39
To: Andy O'Neill [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Louise Edwards [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: PR21-09 comments due by noon Friday 19 March 2021 CCM:0288551

Hi both,

Everyone has commented except Rhydian but he has provided comments on PC. I think we can proceed on that basis so please could you begin making decisions on these. I have highlighted the high profile apps below but most are straight forward.

If you are not able to do all of them in one go, it would be helpful for us if you let us know when you have finished a batch of them and we will start processing them straight away.

Let me know if you'd like me to drop some time in diaries to look at these.

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]
Sent: 17 March 2021 11:50
To: Party Registration Approval Board [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: PR21-09 comments due by noon Friday 19 March 2021 CCM:0288551

Dear all,

We have added 3 further assessments to the below list: Plaid Cymru, Reform UK and SNP. All are description assessments.

Could you please provide comments on these assessments with the other by 19 March.

Given the number of assessments and the short time till the deadline, you might want to discuss with your delegate whether they are able to provide comments on some of the assessments.

Thanks,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]
Sent: 15 March 2021 19:32
To: Party Registration Approval Board [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: PR21-09 comments due by noon Friday 19 March 2021 CCM:0288551

Dear all,

Louise has come to an initial view on 16 applications (links below) and we would now be grateful for your views by **noon Friday 19 March.**

Party name	Type of assessment
Alliance for Democracy and Freedom	New emblems
Alliance for Green Socialism	New descriptions
Breakthrough Party	New emblems
Bucks Together	New minor party application
Conservative and Unionist Party	New descriptions
Hampshire Independents	New descriptions and emblems
Independent Green Voice	New descriptions and emblems
Interactive Democracy	New descriptions
Kingston Independent Residents Group	New descriptions
Leckhampton Green Land Action Group	New minor party application
Lincolnshire Independents Lincolnshire First	New descriptions
Psychedelic Future Party	Change of party name, new descriptions and emblems
South Devon Alliance	New party application
Tattenham & Preston Residents	New emblems
The People's Independent Party	New minor party application
Wessex Regionalists	New emblems
Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales	New Description
Reform UK	New Descriptions
Scottish National Party SNP	New descriptions

Below is a list of resources for approvals board members:

Approvals Board resources	
Briefing paper – The party registration approval board	This document sets out the registration process, role of the board and the legislative tests and policy framework.

Party Registration Decision Database	This document contains a number of historic or complex decisions (2015 onwards) that have helped define our approach to the statutory tests.
Party registration Legal Advise Log	A log of legal advice requested by the registration team, including advice relevant to the interpretation of the statutory tests and for assessments.
Finalised Decisions	Our published registration decisions from 2018 onwards.

If you are unable to provide your views by the deadline due to other commitments, please inform the party registration team and make arrangements with your delegate listed in the table below.

Board Member	Delegate
Director of Regulation (delegated decision maker)	Director of Electoral Administration
Senior Lawyer (Regulation)	Head of Legal
Head of Policy	Head of Research
Head of Registration and Reporting	Head of Enforcement and Monitoring
Head of External Communications	Director of Communications
Head of Commission, Scotland	Manager, Scotland
Head of Commission, Northern Ireland	Manager, Northern Ireland
Head of Commission, Wales	Manager, Wales

Thanks,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: Partyreg
Sent: 05 March 2021 20:12
To: Louise Edwards [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: PR21-09 application summary initial view CCM:0288535

Hi Louise,

Here is the latest application summary.

Could I have your initial comments by Wednesday or let me know if you will require more time? If it would be helpful, please let me know if you would like me to put some slots in your diary to look at this.

To note, this summary contains the last of the applications submitted by the 31 Jan deadline.

Party name	Type of assessment	Comments or decision required
Alliance for Democracy and Freedom	New emblems	Initial view
Alliance for Green Socialism	New descriptions	Initial view
Breakthrough Party	New emblems	Initial view
Bucks Together	New minor party application	Initial view
Conservative and Unionist Party	New descriptions	Initial view
Hampshire Independents	New descriptions and emblems	Initial view
Independent Green Voice	New descriptions and emblems	Initial view
Interactive Democracy	New descriptions	Initial view
Kingston Independent Residents Group	New descriptions	Initial view
Leckhampton Green Land Action Group	New minor party application	Initial view
Lincolnshire Independents Lincolnshire First	New descriptions	Initial view
Plaid Cymru - The Party of Wales	New descriptions	Initial view
Psychedelic Future Party	Change of party name, new descriptions and emblems	Initial view
Reform UK	New descriptions	Initial view
South Devon Alliance	New party application	Initial view
Tattenham & Preston Residents	New emblems	Initial view
The People's Independent Party	New minor party application	Initial view
Wessex Regionalists	New emblems	Initial view

regards,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

[redacted]

Sent Date 21/04/2021 16:18

E-mail

From [redacted] **Cc**

To [redacted] **Bcc**

[redacted]

Subject RE: Complaint Over Party Registered for Scottish Elections

Hi [redacted]

I have drafted this from text we have pre-approved in our template.
*****

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email.

In order to make a registration application, a party must submit all of the required documents and information specified by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA), as well as an application fee where required.

Where a party supplies the necessary documents, information and fees to us, we are obliged to assess the application. Where an application meets the statutory tests, we must approve it. Where an application does not meet the tests, we must refuse it.

You can find out more about these tests, and how we consider them, in our guidance.

Please note, whether or not a party's name accurately reflects its policy positions is not a legal requirement. This is an internal party matter and not one for the Commission.

Please note that decisions made as part of our statutory functions may only be challenged by means of a judicial review, and are not covered by our complaints procedure. You should seek your own legal advice if you wish to pursue this course of action.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

E-mail

RE: other

Sent Date 21/04/2021 15:02

E-mail

From [redacted] **Cc**

To [redacted] **Bcc**

Subject RE: other

Hi [redacted]

Does the below work?

*

Dear XXX,

Thank you for your email.

In order to make a registration application, a party must submit all of the required documents and information specified by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA), as well as an application fee where required.

Where a party supplies the necessary documents, information and fees to us, we are obliged to assess the application. Where an application meets the statutory tests, we must approve it. Where an application does not meet the tests, we must refuse it.

You can find out more about these tests, and how we consider them, in our guidance.

Please note, whether or not a party's name accurately reflects its policy positions is not a legal requirement. This is an internal party matter and not one for the Commission.

Please note that decisions made as part of our statutory functions may only be challenged by means of a judicial review, and are not covered by our complaints procedure. You should seek your own legal advice if you wish to pursue this course of action.
Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]**@electoralcommission.org.uk>**
Sent: 21 April 2021 12:14
To: [redacted]**@electoralcommission.org.uk>**
Subject: RE: other

Hey,

I don't think we'll have any lines on this specifically. Might be worth checking if there is something similar in the template correspondence doc.

Otherwise, happy for you to draft something and run it past me!

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]
Sent: 21 April 2021 11:48
To: [redacted]electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: FW: other

Do we have any specific lines on this issue? I have a similar one in my inbox.

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 10 May 2021 09:19
To: Majella La Praik
Subject: RE: Press Data Summary: Electoral Commission - 10 May 2021

Hi Maj – there about 10 or so emails on this subject in the Reg inbox. We can work up some lines this morning.

Thanks

[redacted]

From: Majella La Praik
Sent: 10 May 2021 08:02
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Press Data Summary: Electoral Commission - 10 May 2021

Hi – just to flag this one. Let me know if we get a volume into the PEF inbox and we can agree some lines.

> **Scottish Election: Greens blast 'blatant electoral deceit' as Independent Green Voice 'potentially cost party seats' (Web)**
> The Scottish Sun - 10/05/2021
> THE Scottish Greens have slammed 'blatant electoral deceit'after the Independent Green Voice party 'potentially cost them seats'. A spokesperson for the Scottish Greens said: "Independent Green Voice, a front for fascists, was allowed to use a logo with 'green' in big letters and the other words in small print on the ballot paper.A spokesperson for the Electoral Commission said: "We assess all party applications against the criteria set out in law and consider comments made by the public and other parties."

From: [redacted]
Sent: 10 May 2021 06:31
To: [redacted]
Subject: Press Data Summary: Electoral Commission - 10 May 2021

The Electoral Commission

Media Coverage for 10 May 2021

[redacted]

[redacted]

UK-wide

Queen's Speech New laws 'likely to deter poorer voters'
The Guardian - 10/05/2021
p9 News. Jim Waterson.
Britons will have to show photo ID to vote in future general elections, ministers are set to confirm this week, in a move to tackle fraud but which critics claim could deter poorer and ethnic minority voters from taking part in democracy. The Electoral Commission have remarked that voter fraud levels are currently very low in the UK.

Voter ID 'illiberal solution for non-existent problem'
The Independent - 10/05/2021
p7 News. Ashley Cowburn.
Boris Johnson's multimillion-pound plan to introduce mandatory voter ID at elections has been criticised as an "illiberal solution in pursuit of a non-existent problem" by a former Tory cabinet minister. As the prime minister prepares to set out his legislative agenda for the coming year at the Queen's Speech, the senior MP David Davis told The Independent the "unnecessary" and "pointless" proposals should be abandoned by the government. Civil liberties groups and race equality campaigners also sounded the alarm over plans, reiterating concerns that barriers could be erected for millions of eligible voters who lack photo identification, which they said were "disproportionately" from ethnic minority and working-class backgrounds. According to most recent data from the Electoral Commission, 595 cases of alleged voter fraud were investigated by police in 2019, with just four leading to a conviction and t wo individuals given a police caution.

Queen's speech: voters will need photo ID for general elections (Web)
Guardian.co.uk - 10/05/2021
Government's legislative agenda is unlikely to include long-awaited reforms to adult social care. The voting reforms, which will also include a limit on the number of postal votes that can be handed in on behalf of others, are being justified by ministers as a way to reduce the risk of electoral fraud. However, the Electoral Commission says the country "has low levels of proven electoral fraud"; in 2019 there was just one conviction and one police caution for impersonating another voter.

Senior Tory labels Boris Johnson's voter ID plans 'illiberal solution for non-existent problem' (Web)
The Independent UK - 10/05/2021
Boris Johnson's multimillion pound plan to introduce mandatory voter ID at elections has been criticised as an "illiberal solution in pursuit of a non-existent problem" by a former Tory cabinet minister. According to most recent data from the Electoral Commission, 595 cases of alleged voter fraud were investigated by police in 2019, with just four leading to a conviction and two individuals given a police caution.

Police candidate banned over drink-drive conviction
Daily Telegraph - 10/05/2021
p6 News.
A Conservative hopeful in Wiltshire and Swindon's police and crime commissioner (PCC) election has been disbarred due to a historical driving offence, the party has confirmed. The BBC says it was a conviction for drink-driving. Jonathon Seed was the candidate for the post, held by fellow Tory Angus Macpherson since 2012. Electoral Commission guidance states says candidates cannot stand for election if they have ever been convicted of an imprisonable offence.

Police commissioner candidate withdraws over drink-driving conviction (Web)
Guardian.co.uk - 10/05/2021
Tory Jonathon Seed, who was running in Wiltshire, was told 30-year-old offence debarred him, contradicting earlier assurances. Bob Ashford, who has Whitehall security clearance and has been director of strategy for the Youth Justice Board for the past 10 years, was told by the Home Office and Electoral Commission that his conviction, at the age of 13 in 1966, was enough to bar him from standing for the post of commissioner.

Now Carrie is on hunt for a knob
Daily Star - 10/05/2021
p4 News. Jerry Lawton.
Boris Johnson's knockers may be out in force again soon as his fiancée now wants "gold knobs" to complement the new decor in their Downing Street flat. The scandal surrounding who paid the bill for the redecoration of the couple's pad threatened to derail the Tory's local elections campaign. The PM was accused of using an undeclared £58,000 Conservative Party loan to fund the refit. He says he has since repaid it but the Electoral Commission announced it will investigate the refurbishment, saying it was "satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to suspect an offence or offences may have occurred".

Police commissioner candidate Jonathon Seed 'bitterly disappointed'after being disbarred over 30-year-old drink-drive conviction (Web)
Sky.com - 10/05/2021

Jonathon Seed says he informed the party about the offence when he applied - but it says it has just come to light. Electoral Commission rules state a person cannot stand if they have been convicted of an imprisonable offence - even if the conviction is spent or they were never jailed.

BBC News 9 May 2021 16:07:38
BBC News - 09/05/2021 16:07:38
Interview with Ruth Wishart, which includes reference to Electoral Commission.

LBC 9 May 2021 11:22:43
LBC - 09/05/2021 11:22:43
Interview with Conservative Party co-chair and MP for Cannock Chase, Amanda Milling, which includes reference to Electoral Commission.

LBC 9 May 2021 09:38:06
LBC - 09/05/2021 09:38:06
Presenter, Andrew Cassell, references the Electoral Commission as part of commentary on the Labour Party and Prime Minister, Boris Johnson.

England

Who is Tracy Brabin, Labour's victorious West Yorkshire metro mayor? (Web)
Yorkshire Post - 10/05/2021
She is expected by many to be announced as West Yorkshire's first elected metro mayor on Sunday May 9, in one of the few Labour local election successes. According to the Electoral Commission, which oversees elections, any individual with police and crime commissioner responsibilities must stand down as an MP before taking up the role. (Please note that this article appeared across several regional press outlets.)

'Unreserved apology'after villagers turn up to vote for North Yorkshire crime commissioner but are given ballots to vote in Church Fenton parish council by-election (Web)
Yorkshire Post - 10/05/2021
A returning officer in Yorkshire's local elections has offered an unreserved apology after 20 people expecting to vote for a police commissioner ended up mistakenly casting their votes in a parish council by-election. But one local councillor said residents were "livid" at the mistake and that the extra votes case may have made a difference to which parish councillors got elected. Coun Musgrave told The Yorkshire Post that two residents of Little Fenton and 18 residents of Biggin who should have been voting for a PFCC were given ballot papers and allowed to vote in the by-election by mistake. "I have asked the Electoral Commission to carry out a full investigation."

BBC 1 West 9 May 2021 22:23:20
BBC 1 West - 09/05/2021 22:23:20
It's emerged that the favourite to win election as Wiltshire's next police and crime commissioner is ineligible. Includes reference to Electoral Commission.

BBC London 94.9 FM 9 May 2021 11:18:32
BBC London 94.9 FM - 09/05/2021 11:18:32
Discussion on elections in London, which includes reference to Electoral Commission.

Scotland

White paper 'would not necessarily be how independence works' - SNP [web link]
The Scotsman - 10/05/2021
p4 News. Jane Bradley.
The SNP's white paper which would lay out the detail of an independent Scotland would not "necessarily" be how it works in practice, the party's depute leader Keith Brown has admitted. On BBC Scotland's Sunday Show, he said another independence referendum would only take place "when it is safe to do so" and pointed to Electoral Commission guidance that there should be at least six months from when a referendum is announced to the vote.

Candidate disbarred for driving offence
The Scotsman - 10/05/2021
p12 News. Claire Hayhurst.
A Conservative candidate in Wiltshire and Swindon's Police and Crime Commissioner election has said he is "bitterly disappointed" after being disbarred due to a driving offence. The Electoral Commission website says

candidates cannot stand for election if they have ever been convicted of an imprisonable offence, even if they were not imprisoned, or the conviction is spent.

Scottish Election results 2021: SNP Independence white paper 'would not necessarily be how it works in practice' (Web)
The Scotsman - 10/05/2021
The SNP's white paper which would lay out the detail of an independent Scotland would not 'necessarily' be how it works in practice, the party's depute leader Keith Brown has admitted. He also said that a referendum would only take place "when it is safe to do so" and pointed to Electoral Commission guidance that there should be at lest six months from when a referendum is announced to the vote.

Scottish Election: Greens blast 'blatant electoral deceit' as Independent Green Voice 'potentially cost party seats' (Web)
The Scottish Sun - 10/05/2021
THE Scottish Greens have slammed 'blatant electoral deceit'after the Independent Green Voice party 'potentially cost them seats'. A spokesperson for the Scottish Greens said: "Independent Green Voice, a front for fascists, was allowed to use a logo with 'green' in big letters and the other words in small print on the ballot paper.A spokesperson for the Electoral Commission said: "We assess all party applications against the criteria set out in law and consider comments made by the public and other parties."

George Galloway's All for Unity fail in bid for Holyrood seat (Web)
thenational.scot - 10/05/2021
GEORGE Galloway's Holyrood dream was in tatters last night as his All for Unity party failed to win a single seat. All for Unity - slated for its RAF-style roundel logo and initially rejected by the Electoral Commission for incomplete paperwork under its original name Alliance for Unity - had urged No voters to back it and "stop the neverendum".

Wales

Wait for counts due to Covid
South Wales Echo - 08/05/2021
p5 News.
VOTERS in Wales have taken part in the Senedd and Police and Crime Commissioner elections, writes Political Editor Ruth Mosalski. The Electoral Commission, which oversees elections, said staff have to be kept in smaller groups than usual and breaks offered regularly for those wearing face coverings.

Long waits as queues form outside polling stations
South Wales Echo - 08/05/2021
p6 News.
THERE were lengthy queues at polling stations on Thursday evening with some voters waiting for more than an hour to cast their ballot. The Electoral Commission, which oversees elections, said counting staff had to be kept in smaller groups and breaks offered regularly for those wearing face coverings

BBC 1 Wales 9 May 2021 10:19:45
BBC 1 Wales - 09/05/2021 10:19:45
Interview with Julie James of Welsh Labour, which includes reference to Electoral Commission.

Trade Press

PCC candidate disbarred over driving offence (Web)
Police Professional - 10/05/2021
The Conservative candidate in Wiltshire and Swindon's police and crime commissioner election has been disbarred after a historical driving offence emerged. Guidance on the Electoral Commission's website states that candidates cannot stand for election if they have ever been convicted of an imprisonable offence.

Crashing Out In Hartlepool: Labour Ills And Teflon Boris (Web)
Remmont-Finance - 10/05/2021
By-election results make poor predictors. The government of the day can often count on a swing against it by irritated voters keen to remind it they exist. It's an opportunity to mete out mild punishment. But the loss of the seat in Hartlepool by the British Labour party is ominous for party apparatchiks. For the first time in 62 years, the Conservatives won the traditional heartland Labour seat, netting 15,529 votes. Labour's tally: 8,589. The swing against Labour had been a devastating 16%. Johnson, for his part, claims that he covered the costs himself, though he refuses to answer questions put to him on whether Lord David Brownlow initially covered it,

and was then repaid. Not declaring this transaction would have broken electoral law. The Electoral Commission has not found the affair particularly amusing, and is investigating the refurbishment transactions.

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