[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 10 June 2021 08:15
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 078-21 - Response

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI-078-21

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 12 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.

To ask who is overall responsible for voting counters and who oversees results of the 06 May 2021.
A. Postal vote counting
B. Polling stations

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested.

The Returning Officer for each election is responsible for conducting the verification and count process.

This includes ensuring that:

- all processes are transparent, with a clear and unambiguous audit trail.
- the verification is accurate. This means that the number of ballot papers in each ballot box matches the number of ballot papers issued as stated on the ballot paper account
- the count produces an accurate result where the total number of votes cast for each candidate and rejected votes matches the total number of ballot papers given on the verification statement for the constituency
- the secrecy of the vote is maintained at all times
- the security of ballot papers and other stationery is maintained at all times
- the communication of information at the verification and count is clear and timely
- there are the right number of competent, skilled and knowledgeable staff – and that each member of staff is clear about their role
- staff receive appropriate training and instructions to allow them to carry out their duties effectively and in accordance with the law

The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority and I trust that this information satisfies your request.

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

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The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk