[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 16 June 2021 08:28
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 087-21 - Response

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI 087-21

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 20 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.

1. The total number of votes cast in each area for the PCC.
2. The number of votes cast for each of the winning candidates
3. The percentage of the electorate that the figure at 1 constitutes.

Our response is as follows:

The Commission is currently collecting data from the May 2021 elections with the intention of publishing it on our website in the autumn of this year.

When released, the data will be published here.

The information that you have requested is exempt under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 22 provides for an exemption where the information requested is intended for future publication.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption which requires the public interest test to be considered.

We understand that there is a legitimate public interest in the information you have requested, and the need for transparency in relation to electoral events, specifically the publication of key statistical data; however, it is not in the public's interest to release partial data or an incomplete analysis of that data.

There is a clear need for the information requested to remain within our predetermined publication timetable, and as such we determine the exemption remains in favour of withholding the information.

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:

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