[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 12 July 2021 08:58
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 104-21 - Response

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI-104-21

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 2 July 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 would like to know how much the Workers Party - George Galloway, spend at the Batley and Spen by election and how was this funded.
He has offices across the constituency, Batley, Heckmondwike, Cleckheaton. He had a double decker bus being driven around the constituency for days campaigning for him. He had banners and posters every where. He had published material distributed.

Our response is as follows:

We do not hold the information you have requested.

There are no party spending returns required to be submitted to the Electoral Commission for Parliamentary by-elections, unless they coincide with the regulated period for a UK Parliamentary General Election or other national election, which was not the case here. All spending in support of the Workers Party at the by-election was therefore reportable as spending by their candidate, George Galloway.

Candidates are required to deliver their spending returns to the Returning Officer rather than to the Electoral Commission, and within 35 days of the result. It may therefore not yet have been delivered to the Returning Officer. Once it is delivered, the Returning Officer is required to make it available to the public for a period of two years.

Your request should therefore be directed to Kirklees Council. The Council is not required to provide copies of the return, though may provide copies for a charge. You can view the return in person. The contact details for the Council's Electoral Services team are below, which we have obtained from its website in order to assist you.

Electoral Services
Kirklees Council
Kirkgate Buildings,
Byram Street,
Huddersfield,
West Yorkshire,
HD1 1BY

Email: electoral.registration@kirklees.gov.uk
Telephone: 01484 221650 - Monday to Friday between 8:30am and 4:45pm

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

Information Officer
FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk