[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 10 September 2021 11:22
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 108-21 - Response

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI-108-21

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 5 August 2021.

The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly and regrets that is has not done so within the statutory timeframe of twenty working days.

Your request is shown below followed by our response.

1. Any correspondence or documentation regarding donations to the Conservative Party from Lubov Chernukhin since September 2020, including but not limited to:

a. Correspondence with the Conservative Party, including but not limited to enquiries as to what checks had been made on the permissibility of donations, including the source of funds;

b. Correspondence with the donor;

c. Correspondence within the Electoral Commission;

2. Any documentation or correspondence related to investigations carried out in order to ascertain whether Lubov Chernukhin's donations could have been on behalf of someone else.

3. Whether enquiries were made with any other authorities outside of the Commission besides the Conservative Party regarding the donor.

Our response is as follows:

Your request relates to donations to the Conservative and Unionist Party from Lubov Chernukhin since 1 September 2020. The party has reported two donations from Lubov Chernukhin since that time. Those are published on our website here.

In relation to those two donations, you asked for:

1. Any correspondence or documentation regarding those donations.
2. Any documentation or correspondence related to investigations carried out in order to ascertain whether those donations could have been on behalf of someone else.
3. Whether enquiries were made with any other authorities outside of the Commission besides the Conservative Party regarding the donor.

We hold some of the information you requested.

Exemptions under Section 21

The information that we hold relevant to your request is exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 21 provides for an exemption where the information requested is reasonably accessible to the requester by other means. The information that you have requested is accessible to you by using our online register of donations to political parties. The online register of donations is searchable by a number of criteria. We have filtered the search for you so that it shows the donations from Lubov Chernukhin and can be found here.

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