[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 07 September 2021 12:24
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 110-21 - Response

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI-110-21

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 16 August 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.

First, I would like to know how many postal ballots were cast and counted in the December 2019 general election in the UK.

Second, I would like to know how this number compares to the previous three general elections (i.e., whether it was higher or lower, and by what percentage).

Third, I would like to know what company or companies: a) printed the ballot papers, b) delivered them, c) to whom these companies were contracted (e.g., HMG, local authorities, etc.).

If you cannot answer one question, I would like the others answered.

Our response is as follows:

We hold some of the information you have requested.

Data on the number of postal ballots at the recent UK General elections is available on the Commission's website here: https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/elections-and-referendums/past-elections-and-referendums/uk-general-elections

Summary data is provided below:

	% electorate issued with a postal vote	% postal votes returned
2019	17.2%	83.9%
2017	18.0%	85.1%
2015	16.4%	85.8%
2010	15.3%	83.2%

Questions about the running of the elections including arrangements for the distribution and collation of postal votes should be directed to the Returning Officers at each local authority responsible for the delivery of the poll.

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