From:	FOI
To:	[redacted]
Subject:	FOI 155/18 - Darren Grimes - Response
Date:	17 October 2018 09:21:54
Attachments:	REDACTED Signed audit report.pdf

Dear [redacted]

Our Ref: FOI 155/18

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated **01 October 2018.**

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 in bold below followed by our response.

Under FoI & S.124 of PPERA, I am hereby requesting the following in relation to Mr Darren Grimes (PerPar4031); the auditors report on the return for EU Referendum campaign spending (as per S.121 PPERA) the invoices &/or receipts for;
SP0257831
SP0257825
SP0257826
SP0257824
SP0257816
SP0257823
SP0257822
SP0257827

If these are not available, please state why.

Our response is as follows:

We hold some of the information you have requested.

The Commission does hold an audit report submitted by Mr. Darren Grimes as part of his spending return which you can see attached.

In relation to the invoices and/or receipts referred to in your request, the Commission does not hold this information as there was no statutory requirement for permitted participants at the EU referendum to provide invoices and/or receipts for payments under £200. The payments referenced in your request are all below £200. The Commission has published reported campaign expenditure for the EU referendum, including invoices and receipts for payments in excess of £200, on our online registers.

Details of exemptions applied are below:

Exemptions under Section 40

You will notice that certain personal details have been redacted from the documents we are releasing. This redaction is necessary because section 40(2)

and (3)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI) Act provides that personal data, where its disclosure would breach one of the data protection principles, is exempt from disclosure. The first data protection principle states that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully. The Commission considers that it would be unfair to release the names and personal contact details of junior officials, who were not employed in public facing roles and did not act as spokespersons for their employer, as those individuals would have a reasonable expectation that this personal data would not be disclosed to the general public.

I trust that this information satisfies your request. 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: http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information-requests/how-do-I-make-an-foi-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,

[redacted]
Access to Information Officer (FOI and DPA)

The Electoral Commission
FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk
electoralcommission.org.uk

Auditor's Report

Name of registered referendum campaigner: BeLeave
Name of the responsible person: Darren Grimes

Spending limit: £700,000 **Amount spent: £676,016**

We have examined the attached spending return for the 2016 Referendum on the UK's membership of the EU prepared by BeLeave, under section 120 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) (as applied by section 3 and modified by paragraph 23 of Schedule 1 and Part 4 of Schedule 2 to the European Referendum Act 2015).

It is our opinion that the referendum spending reported by Darren Grimes fairly represents the campaigner's spending between 15 April 2016 and 23 June 2016 as required by PPERA.

Respective responsibilities

The campaigner's responsible person, Darren Grimes is accountable for:

- Ensuring that the campaigner's campaign spending was authorised in accordance with the requirements of section 113 and 114 of PPERA.
- The completion, under section 120 of PPERA (the European Referendum Act 2015) of the spending return incurred by or on behalf of the referendum campaigner between 15 April 2016 and 23 June 2016 in respect of the 2016 referendum on the UK's membership of the EU.
- Confirming to the best of his knowledge and belief that the spending reported in the referendum campaigner's return is complete and correct.
- Preparing the spending return and ensuring it is consistent with the return.

It is our responsibility, as a qualified auditor, to report on the spending return under section 121 of PPERA as applied by EURA. Specifically, our objective is to provide an opinion on whether the referendum spending reported on the summary is fairly presented in all material respects, in accordance with the law.

Basis of our opinion

The nature of our examination is set out in our letter of engagement dated 18 July 2016. A copy has been provided to The Electoral Commission. We have reviewed the basis on which Darren Grimes has prepared the spending return. This included examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the referendum spending incurred by or on behalf of the referendum campaigner in respect of the 2016 referendum on the UK's membership of the EU. We have also assessed the significant estimates and judgements made by the referendum campaigner, Darren Grimes, in preparing the return.

We planned and performed our procedures so as to obtain all the information and explanations that we considered necessary to provide us with sufficient evidence to give a reasonable assurance that the spending return fairly presents in all material respects the referendum campaigner's spending, in accordance with the law.

Opinion

In our opinion the spending return fairly represents in all material respects the referendum spending incurred by, or on behalf of, the referendum campaigner which is used between 15 April 2016 and 23 June 2016 in respect of the 2016 referendum on the UK's membership of the EU, in accordance with the law.

This report is intended solely for the use of the referendum campaigner, Darren Grimes, and the Electoral Commission, in connection with the referendum campaigner's responsibilities under section 111-123 of PPERA as applied and modified by the European Referendum Act 2015. Our report is not to be used for any other purpose or to be distributed to any other parties. We do not accept any duty of care or responsibility to the Electoral Commission in relation to our report and will not accept any liability or responsibility to any other third party to whom it is shown or into whose hands it may come.

P J Hedgethorne (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Feist Hedgethorne Limited
Statutory Auditors
Chartered Accountants
Preston Park House
South Road
Brighton
East Sussex
BN1 6SB



Date: 4 August 2016