**From:** FOI
**To:** [redacted]
**Subject:** FOI 166/18 - Cost of investigation into Leave.EU - Response
**Date:** 26 November 2018 12:11:25

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Dear [redacted],

**Our Ref: FOI 166/18**

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

1. **Please disclose all known costs of the Electoral Commission's investigations/reviews into the funding of the Leave.EU campaign;**

2. **Please disclose the operational name/s of the investigations/reviews and the known costs of each.**

Our response is as follows:

**We do not hold the information you have requested.**

The Commission does not operate a time recording system for staff in the Political Finance and Regulation directorate (or in any other directorate for that matter). As such, no specific record exists of the cost of the Commission's investigation into the Leave.EU campaign.

We do not use 'operational name/s' for regulatory work.

We have published the conclusion of the one investigation we have run into Leave.EU's pre-poll transaction reports and their campaign spending return for the EU Referendum. The investigation started on 20 April 2017 and concluded on 11 May 2018. It was led by a senior investigator within the Regulation Team, with input from senior staff and from different teams within the Political Finance and Regulation Directorate and wider across the organisation. The investigation report is published on our website.

The overall spend on the Political Finance and Regulation (PFR) Directorate can be found in our Annual Report and Accounts.

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**
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