[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 11 November 2021 10:41
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 131-21 - Response

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI-131-21

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 29 October 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.

Which parties between 2016 and 2021 inclusive were de-registered because the Electoral Commission had refused an Annual Return from a person Registered as Treasurer, on the Register at that time.

If that is not available, which parties complained of such an action.

Where does it say in PPERA a Treasurer is excused from being Treasurer, because the Electoral Commission usurps the party, and thinks they should not be ~ or want to swap for another role, rather than take the Treasurer's stated correspondence / independent email position.

Where does PPERA allow the ElectoraLCommission to decide if a person is NOT Treasurer, rather than the party, absent a court order?

In cases where the Commission accuse a Party Treasurer of not being a Treasurer, how many party addresses / officials were actually visited?

Our response is as follows:

We do not hold the information you requested.

The law, in relation to registration of political parties, is set out in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA).

In order to remain registered, the registered treasurer of a political party must deliver a notification to the Commission. The notification must be delivered (along with a £25 fee) during the period beginning on the first day of the party's financial year, and ending six months after the party's deadline to deliver its annual statement of accounts. The notification must also either confirm that the party's registered details remain correct, or the party must provide a relevant application to update those details that complies with PPERA. Parties must also provide the Commission with updates made to their constitution if any have been made since the last renewal was delivered.

Providing that a party's renewal notification satisfies these requirements, the Commission must process it. However, if the requirements are not met (i.e. the party has failed to deliver a compliant

renewal notification by the deadline), then the Commission is compelled by law to remove the party's entry from the register. The Commission does not have discretion in these matters, and so cannot "refuse" a compliant renewal notification.

With regards to the other parts of your request, information is exempt under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) if the information requested is already accessible to the requester. The contents of PPERA are accessible online. Sections 32 and 33 deal with a party's annual confirmation of registered details.

We are also not obliged, under the FOIA, to form an opinion or create new information. As the regulator of political party and election finance, we will consider relevant information in exercising our functions, including determining whether the provisions outlined in PPERA have been properly met.

Finally, we can confirm that no parties have been "visited" for the purposes of checking the compliance of a party's annual renewal notification.

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