From: FOI
Sent: 18 November 2021 12:39
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 128-21 - Response

Dear [redacted]

Our Ref: FOI 128-21

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 25 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.

Back in 2014 the Commission, after several years of registration , de-listed the TEA PARTY because the name contained an acronym ,which in the Commission's view ,was considered unknown by the public ,despite much media coverage of its namesake in the USA.
Since January 2014 how many other parties have been similarly de-registered ?
What were the acronyms involved ?
Since January 2014 how many parties were refused registration because their names contained an acronym ?

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested.

It is our view that if an identifier contains an acronym or abbreviation that is not commonly known or spelt out, it is likely to mislead an elector as to the effect of their vote.

In 2014, a review of the register of party identifiers was conducted. As part of this review, parties were removed from the register where the party name included an acronym which was not commonly known or not spelt out.

A full list of the parties removed from the register as a result of that review for this reason can be seen below:

ACC
ENG
NOTA
TEA Party
TUSP

We have guidance on our website available to applicant parties to assist them in making an application to register. Our guidance makes clear that if an acronym or abbreviation is not well-known or widely-used in everyday language it is likely to be refused.

From January 2014 to the date the request was received, our records indicate that one applicant party has been refused registration because the applicant party name was not commonly known or not spelt out.

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: 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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