[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 28 February 2022 09:26
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 009-22 - Response

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI-009-22

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 2 February 2022 and received by the Commission the next day, 3 February 2022.

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.

Do you have any information that details the extent to which the Electoral Commission is using the decision in The Commission for Equality and Human Rights v Nicholas J Griffin and others (as representatives of the British National Party) 2010 to determine whether to accept a prospective political party onto the registered of political parties maintained by the Electoral Commission.

In relies upon the above county court judgement (among any other matters upon which it has relied) how many applications for registration as a political party has the Electoral Commission so decline in the last 5 years.

Assuming the Electoral Commission has so declined registration (a) what information has the Commission which details which applications from what prospective political parties has the Commission declined and (b) in each case the basis and the reasons upon such rejection was made – such as for example indirect discrimination against persons of which protected characteristic. In this regard please supply copy of the information which details the precise reason given in reliance upon the above mentioned county court judgement.

Our response is as follows:

The judgement that you refer to is one factor that informs our approach to discharging our public sector equality duty as registrar of political parties in the United Kingdom. However, it is not the sole factor relied upon in taking any decision, and we do not record the extent to which this judgement or those other factors are relied upon. Accordingly, we do not hold the information you have requested.

You can find further information about our registration function on our website here:

https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/party-registration-applications

You may also be interested to know that the Equality and Human Rights Commission has published guidance for political parties about The Equality Act which you can see here:

https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/equality-act-2010-guide-political-parties

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