

From: [FOI](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 195/18 - Response
Date: 21 December 2018 16:39:47

Dear [REDACTED],

Our Ref: FOI 195/18

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated **29 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. It is important that you tell me the topics, details and conclusions of all conversations between Holmes / Sedwill.**
- 2. If you refuse to release any of this information, please explain on what grounds this is being done and the nature of the topics as justification for the decision.**
- 3. How often has Sedwill visited the 'Electoral Commission'?**
- 4. Were the Holmes / Sedwill meetings, conversations or emails minuted or recorded?**
- 5. Has the 'Electoral Commission' of any of its officers at ANY POINT acted under the instructions or suggestions of Sedwill?**

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested.

- 1. It is important that you tell me the topics, details and conclusions of all conversations between Holmes / Sedwill.**

You'll find these details in the letter we sent in response to a previous FOI you made, reference number 171/18, however I am happy to recap here. Meetings between Sir John Holmes and Sir Mark Sedwill covered security issues affecting elections and the wider electoral process.

- 2. If you refuse to release any of this information, please explain on what grounds this is being done and the nature of the topics as justification for the decision.**

We have not applied an exemption to any part of this request. This is because you have not requested any information from us.

- 3. How often has Sedwill visited the 'Electoral Commission'?**
Sir Mark Sedwill has not visited the offices of the Electoral Commission.

- 4. Were the Holmes / Sedwill meetings, conversations or emails minuted or recorded?**

Meetings were not minuted or recorded

5. Has the 'Electoral Commission' of any of its officers at ANY POINT acted under the instructions or suggestions of Sedwill?

This part of your request cannot be considered as a request under the FOIA 2000. We are not required to respond to requests for our opinion, to create data or to preform research duties. We have instead responded below outside of the FOI process.

Staff at the Electoral Commission are independent and act on the directions of internal colleagues only. As a public body, the Electoral Commission and its staff act with the needs of voters in mind at all times.

For details regarding the work carried out by the Electoral Commission please visit the following webpage. <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/our-work/who-we-are>

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,



Access to Information Officer (FOI and DPA)

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