From: FOI
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 200/18 - Response
Date: 11 December 2018 11:58:52

Dear [redacted]

Our Ref: FOI 200/18

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated **03 December 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 confirm whether the organisation Friends of the Earth Trust mentioned as a Remain campaigning organisation relates to the charity with charity number 281681. Just yes or no.

2. Please tell me whether the Electoral Commission has made any assessment of the legitimacy of the high 48% vote achieved by the pro-Brussels campaigns in the referendum in light of actual charities have been permitted to campaign politically in breach of Charity Commission rules. Just yes or no will suffice.

Our response is as follows:

1. **Please confirm whether the organisation Friends of the Earth Trust mentioned as a Remain campaigning organisation relates to the charity with charity number 281681. Just yes or no.**

The Information you have requested is exempt under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 21 provides for an exemption where the information requested is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means.

Please visit The Charity Commission's website where you are able to search for registered charity numbers and, if they are companies, their associated company number. Our register of permitted participants also publishes company numbers where applicable.

2. **Please tell me whether the Electoral Commission has made any assessment of the legitimacy of the high 48% vote achieved by the pro-Brussels campaigns in the referendum in light of actual charities have been permitted to campaign politically in breach of Charity Commission rules. Just yes or no will suffice**

We are not aware of any charity being 'permitted' to campaign politically in a way that breaks charity law or Charity Commission guidance.

Our guidance on campaigning and registering for the EU Referendum gives an overview of the rules.

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)

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