

[REDACTED]

From: FOI
Sent: 20 April 2022 09:54
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 030-22 - Response

Dear [REDACTED],

Our Ref: FOI-030-22

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

On 20 May 2019 former PM Gordon Brown wrote to the Commission demanding an investigation into the Brexit Party. This he did with no evidence to support his spurious allegations.

A review, not an investigation, was launched by the Commission which found nothing to support the failed former PM's allegations.

I am aware and have read the Commission's report on this affair.

However I request sight of any correspondence with Mr Brown post receipt of his false allegations.

Our response is as follows:

We do not hold the information you have requested.

We responded to a previous request for correspondence with Mr Brown regarding this matter in June 2019, you can see our response here, [FOI 124-19](#).

The Commission did not formally respond to Mr Brown at that time, and there has not been any further correspondence between the Commission and Mr Brown on this matter subsequently. In response to his letter we did share with his office our media statement of 20 May 2019:

“The Brexit Party, like all registered political parties, has to comply with laws that require any donation it accepts of over £500 to be from a permissible source. It is also subject to rules for reporting donations, loans, campaign spending and end of year accounts. We have already been talking to the party about these issues.

As part of our active oversight and regulation of these rules, we are attending the Brexit Party's office tomorrow to conduct a review of the systems it has in place to receive funds, including donations over £500 that have to be from the UK only. If there's evidence that the law may have been broken, we will consider that in line with our Enforcement Policy.”

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

Information Officer

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The Electoral Commission

electoralcommission.org.uk