

From: [FOI](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 201/18 - Registered non-party campaigners
Date: 06 December 2018 15:17:30

Dear [REDACTED],

Our Ref: FOI 201/18

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.

In addition to several charities being permitted unlawfully to campaign in the referendum by the Electoral Commission, several of the companies registered also had charitable arms.

1. What action if any was taken by the Electoral Commission to ensure that the registered campaigners proved that they were not engaging their charitable function in the delivery of a referendum campaign?

2. What action if any would the Electoral Commission take if it were shown that this had taken place?

3. Would the Electoral Commission's response to this infringement be the same for Remain and Leave campaigns?

Our response is as follows:

We do not hold the information you have requested.

The Commission did not and has no power to permit any charities unlawfully to campaign in the 2016 EU Referendum. Our guidance on [campaigning and registering for the EU Referendum](#) gives an overview of the rules.

We do not regulate charity law. If you have concerns about breaches of charity law please contact the relevant charity regulator.

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)

The Electoral Commission

FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk

electoralcommission.org.uk