

From: [FOI](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 208/18 - Referendum activity and staff conduct - response
Date: 21 December 2018 14:56:34

Dear [REDACTED]

Our Ref: FOI 208/18

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated **14 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. Has the 'Electoral Commission' made any steps or discussions towards its rerun of the referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union.**
- 2. Have staff of the 'Electoral Commission', which calls itself the watchdog for electoral practice in the UK, undertaken any liaison with individuals within the EU institutions in 2018?**
- 3. What is the punishment for malpractice among staff of the Electoral Commission. For example if they were found to be corrupt or conducting a political agenda?**

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested.

- 1. Has the 'Electoral Commission' made any steps or discussions towards its rerun of the referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union.**

Question 1 cannot be considered as a request for information under the FOI act, however we have responded here outside that process for ease.

We continue to maintain contingency plans to enable us to respond quickly to any unscheduled poll, as we were able to do for the snap UK general election in 2017.

It is for Parliament to decide if a poll is to take place and we would work with, and support, the electoral community to ensure any unscheduled polls were well-run.

- 2. Have staff of the 'Electoral Commission', which calls itself the watchdog for electoral practice in the UK, undertaken any liaison with individuals within the EU institutions in 2018?**

Several members of staff have provided EU institutions with insights into our role regulating digital campaigning, but we have not had any further contact with EU institutions in 2018.

- 3. What is the punishment for malpractice among staff of the Electoral**

Commission? For example if they were found to be corrupt or conducting a political agenda?

The Electoral Commission has clear disciplinary procedures in place which allow for any allegations of misconduct to be investigated. Penalties range from written warnings through to dismissal depending on the nature of the misconduct. Breaching the Electoral Commission's code of conduct in relation to political activity or conflict of interest is listed as an example of gross misconduct for which the penalty can be dismissal.

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]

[REDACTED]

Access to Information Officer (FOI and DPA)

The Electoral Commission

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