

[REDACTED]

From: FOI
Sent: 10 May 2022 08:30
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 039-22 - Response

Dear [REDACTED],

Our Ref: FOI-039-22

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 15 April 2022 and received by the Commission on 19 April 2022.

The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly and has done so within the statutory timeframe of twenty working days. As noted in our acknowledgement of the receipt of this request, the Electoral Commission is not bound by the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, so has responded under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which covers recorded information held by public bodies in England.

Your request is shown below followed by our response.

I am writing to you as I believe a complaint was made to the Electoral Commission about Pauline Monro, an Independent candidate for Cromarty Firth in the upcoming elections. We have been told that Pauline Monro was accused of trying to buy votes by providing lunches to the children during the school holidays. We already know that this is something she has done for, at least, two years and that she wasn't trying to buy votes but a lot of bad publicity has resulted from this complaint as people think the complaint was made by someone related to the SNP.

I am now submitting a request in relation to this complaint, under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, and I ask for the following information:

Did somebody make a complaint suggesting Pauline Monro was trying to buy votes?

When was the complaint made?

What was the contents of the complaint?

Who made the complaint?

What address did the complaint come from (the email address and the postal address)?

Our response is as follows:

We do not hold the information you have requested.

The Electoral Commission has a [formal complaints procedure](#) and I can confirm that no complaint related to Pauline Monro has been received through our complaints procedure.

We also receive queries through our public information service which is separate to our formal complaints procedures. We have searched the records we hold here and we can find no records relating to Pauline Monro.

I should also note that in the event that a complaint was made in regard to potential electoral fraud then we would direct the complainant to Police Scotland who have responsibility for investigating allegations of electoral fraud.

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
FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk

The Electoral Commission
[electoralcommission.org.uk](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk)