

[REDACTED]

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**From:** FOI  
**Sent:** 16 May 2022 09:20  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FOI 044-22 - Response

Dear [REDACTED],

**Our Ref: FOI-044-22**

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 11 May 2022 and received by the Commission on 12 June 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.

*Candidate spending records for 2021 Hartlepool by-election*

**Our response is as follows:**

We do not hold the information you have requested.

At a Parliamentary by-election each candidate must deliver an expenditure return to the local Returning Officer for that election. The Returning Officer is not required to provide copies of these returns to the Commission, and in this instance we have not requested copies.

Candidates' expenditure returns can be inspected at the Returning Officer's office. The Council may provide copies of returns for a charge. These returns are usually only kept for two years after which time they are destroyed. I have provided below a link to contact details for Hartlepool Borough Council:

[Contact us | Hartlepool Borough Council](#)

The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority. 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**

