

From: [FOI](#)  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FOI 212/18 Party Registration snap UK Parliamentary General Election Response  
Date: 01 February 2019 17:48:26

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Dear [REDACTED]

**Our Ref: FOI 212/18**

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated **21 December 2018**.

The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly and regrets that on this occasion we have not done so.

Your request is in bold below followed by our response.

**I am applying for any plans you may have for permitting or processing expedited applications to register a new political party if a snap general election is called.**

**I'm particularly interested if you have any plans to look favourably on applications from a party that includes some MPs seeking re-election in a situation where a number of MPs have left an existing party to form a new one and then a general election has been called before they have completed the process to register a new party.**

Our response is as follows:

**We do not hold the information you have requested.**

We process registration applications from receipt to decision as soon as possible, however, we take the time we need to properly assess an application and be satisfied we are taking the right decision. Decisions on registration applications are important statutory decisions.

We must carefully assess applications against the statutory tests in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). Undertaking this process can take some time in order to ensure we reach a fair conclusion within the legislative requirements. Once an applicant has provided all of the information we need to consider an application the registration process usually takes around six weeks. In some cases, it can take less or more time than that.

All registration applications are assessed against the same statutory criteria on a case by case basis considering the particular facts relevant to that application. Whether or not there would be time to determine applications to register new political parties ahead of any snap UK Parliamentary General election poll would depend on the specific timetable and circumstances.

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: <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,



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