

[REDACTED]

From: FOI
Sent: 06 June 2022 08:18
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 043-22 - Response
Attachments: 2021-07-29 Britain First (GB) - Constitution.pdf; 2021-04-20 Britain First (GB) - RP1_Redacted.pdf

Dear [REDACTED],

Our Ref: FOI-043-22

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 8 May 2022 and received by the Commission on 9 May 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.

Please could you provide a copy of the current constitution and the Form RP1 GB that you hold for the registered party, Britain First?

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested – please see the attached documents.

Exemption under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA):

You will notice that certain personal details have been redacted from the documents we are releasing.

Information is exempt under section 40(2) of the FOIA where release of the information would breach one of the data protection principles in the GDPR. One of the principles states that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully.

Some of the information contained in the requested information falls within the description of personal data because the information relates directly to an identifiable living individual. Disclosure of this information would breach the first data protection principle, which states the information must be processed fairly and lawfully. Under this provision, we have redacted the contact details of some individuals. This is an absolute exemption under the Act.

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



Constitution of the BRITAIN FIRST PARTY

Version 1.0

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Britain First Party aims to provide a patriotic democratic alternative for the people of Great Britain.

The Britain First Party will stand candidates in democratic elections at all levels to ensure the people of Great Britain are put first in their own country.

CHAPTER 1: NAME AND POLICY

(a) The name of this party is "**Britain First**" (the "Party").

(b) The Party's policy, decisions and direction shall be determined by the elected Leader, Standing Committee and AGM.

(c) Policy decisions taken at the AGM shall be binding unless revoked or amended by a subsequent AGM.

(d) Policy decisions can also be taken by popular vote of the Party's Members via email or SMS votes.

(e) All policy decisions will be added to the Party's website including the date upon which it was added.

CHAPTER 2: PARTY STRUCTURE

The party hierarchy will be structured as follows:

(a) Members

(b) Standing Committee

(c) National Nominating Officer

(d) Treasurer

(e) Chairman

(f) Leader

Membership Criteria

(a) Membership shall be open to all those over the age of 18 and irrespective of sex, class, religion, race, ethnicity or creed. For more information, see Chapter 7 of this Constitution.

(b) The safe keeping of Party membership lists will be the responsibility of the elected Leader.

National Structures

(a) The “Standing Committee” is tasked with assisting the elected Leader and provides a platform for Party officers to address grievances. Its members shall consist of:

- **Leader ***
- **Chairman**
- **National Nominating Officer ***
- **Treasurer ***
- **Regional Organisers**

* As registered officially with the Electoral Commission.

The registration of Party officers with the Electoral Commission– with the exception of the democratically elected Leader – will be made by the party Treasurer but authorised by the elected Leader.

The elected Leader will also be responsible for appointing all Party officers (listed above) that subsequently form the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee can meet as often as required, but at a minimum of once every 12 weeks. For ordinary meetings of the Standing Committee, a quorum of 60 percent is required.

Votes taken by the Standing Committee that are hung, are automatically defeated.

Party Officials

All Party officials and staff must be Party members. All such appointments must be ratified by the elected Leader.

Leader

The Leader of the Party is entrusted with deciding the political direction of the movement in its day-to-day interactions with the public.

The Leader will also sit on the Standing Committee and acts as its chair.

The elected Leader shall enjoy full executive authority over the Party, apart from the exceptions contained in Chapter 8.

Election of the Leader

The Leader is elected by a popular and secret general postal ballot amongst all Party Members who have been members for a period of not less than one year.

Eligibility

In order to qualify to be a candidate for the office of "Leader", a member must have more than three years' continuous membership, have stood as an election candidate at any level, be a member of the Standing Committee and have a proven record of activism.

In addition, a candidate must have obtained at least 400 signatures from Members with more than one year's continuous membership.

All candidates will feature on a general postal mailing to all Members of the Party with more than one year's membership.

Should a candidate receive the necessary 400 signatures from this general postal mailing, they will qualify as a candidate in the leadership election.

Should no prospective candidate receive the 400 signatures necessary to qualify, the leadership election will be cancelled and the previous Leader will resume their duties.

The Party will not provide membership lists to prospective candidates under any circumstances.

Candidates will be able to advertise their campaign through the official Party website and postal mailings that are organised by the Treasurer.

The incumbent Leader is not required to obtain any nomination signatures and are automatically eligible for candidacy to the Leadership.

Leadership Election Process

At the onset of a leadership election, the incumbent leader must stand down to ensure a balanced, transparent and fair contest.

The Chairman of the Party will act as Returning Officer of the leadership election.

The day-to-day running of the Party in-between the declaration of a vacancy and the election of a new Leader will be the responsibility of the Chairman of the Party.

Until the election of a new Leader, the National Nominating Officer will be registered as Leader with the Electoral Commission – this will take place within 14 days of the resignation of the previous Leader.

After verification that a candidate has received the necessary 400 signatures from Members with at least one year's membership via a postal mailing organised by the Chairman of the Party, the Chairman of the Party shall announce the candidates via all official Party organs.

All candidates shall have equal time and space allocated to them in all the Party organs. A guideline of 1,000 words each for written manifestoes and four minutes each for online appearances shall apply in all cases.

Once the candidates are declared, all Members with one year's membership shall receive, by mail, a voting ballot with the names of all prospective candidates printed thereon.

This shall take place no less than three weeks from the date of the official declaration of candidates by the Returning Officer.

Party members will have two weeks from the date of posting of the ballot papers in which to return the ballot papers marked with their choice. The returned ballot papers will remain sealed until the two-week period is over, whereupon they will be opened and counted in the presence of the candidates and their representatives.

The candidate with the most popular votes (first past the post) will be declared duly elected and take up the role of Leader with immediate effect.

Election Timeframes and Extraordinary Circumstances

The position of Leader shall be valid for four years.

If at the end of this period, no nominations are received, and the incumbent indicates his or her desire to retain the post, he or she will duly be considered to be re-elected unopposed for a further four years.

CHAPTER 3: THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (“AGM”)

The Party must hold an Annual General Meeting each year, except in cases due to a public health emergency or pandemic.

Attendance at the Annual General Meeting is open to all Members.

All decisions made by the AGM will be recorded on the Party’s official website.

The AGM will be chaired by the Chairman of the Party.

CHAPTER 4: REVISIONS TO THIS CONSTITUTION

Changes to this Constitution may only be made by a 75 percent majority vote at the Annual General Meeting of the Party.

The elected Leader and Standing Committee can initiate proposals for amendments to this Constitution.

To initiate the dissolution of the Party, simultaneous agreement must be gained from the elected Leader, a unanimous vote of the Standing Committee and also a 75 percent majority vote by the AGM.

CHAPTER 5: ACCOUNTS AND FINANCES

The Treasurer will employ a qualified accountant to produce full annual accounts to the Standing Committee at the end of every calendar year.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial affairs of the Party.

The Treasurer will be responsible for ensuring that the Party follows all legal requirements of the ‘Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000’ and fulfils our commitments as laid down in our Financial Scheme.

Party accounts will be submitted to the Electoral Commission on time and audited by external accountants if applicable.

These accounts will be made available to all Members of the Party at the end of the financial year and/or Electoral Commission deadlines.

The Britain First Party will operate an entirely separate financial structure for both the GB and NI Electoral Commission jurisdictions.

The Treasurer shall be appointed by the Leader.

More information on our financial structure can be found in our Financial Scheme.

CHAPTER 6: ELECTIONS

The Britain First Party will stand candidates in local, metropolitan, mayoral, assembly and Parliamentary elections.

Candidates will be chosen at local branch level and will be authorised by the National Nominating Officer.

The Leader of the Party and the Standing Committee can exercise a veto for proposed electoral candidates.

Candidates must be fully paid up members of the Party and must abide by the terms of this Constitution.

CHAPTER 7: EQUALITY POLICY

Membership of the Party will be open to everyone over the age of 18, regardless of sex, class, religion, race, ethnicity or creed.

The Party will fulfil its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and will not tolerate discrimination in any form.

The Party recognises the Protected Characteristics as laid down by the Equality Act 2010, these being age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

The Party will investigate all complaints of discrimination, which can be submitted to the main Party enquiries email at: admin@britainfirst.info

Responsibility for investigating complaints of discrimination will be the responsibility of the Party Chairman.

All Members of the Party have a right to pursue a complaint concerning discrimination or victimisation via an email to Head Office.

Discrimination and victimisation will be treated as disciplinary offences and, if proven, will result in expulsion or suspension of membership.

CHAPTER 8: THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman of the Party will be proposed and voted into position by the Standing Committee by simple majority vote.

The Chairman will be responsible for the observance of the rules and regulations laid down by this Constitution.

The Chairman will be responsible for dealing with complaints relating to Chapter 7.

The Chairman has the authority to unilaterally assemble disciplinary tribunals to deal with complaints relating to Chapter 7, or can deal with complaints at their sole discretion.

Once agreed by the Standing Committee, the Chairman cannot be removed from position, or if applicable, employment, for a period of one year from the day they took office.

The Party will email the Electoral Commission when a new Chairman takes office.

The Leader, or the Standing Committee, cannot override disciplinary decisions made by the Chairman, who is independent of the Party leadership.

Application to register a political party in Great Britain

This application was submitted electronically to the Electoral Commission on 20/04/2021 at 21:51:42.

PEF Online reference: 12823

Declaration

The party named below is applying to be a registered party in accordance with the requirements of Part II of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

I declare that Britain First intends to contest one or more relevant elections in Great Britain (which will not be confined to parish (England) or community (Wales) elections) and is accordingly applying to be registered in the following part(s) of the Great Britain register:

England Y Scotland Y Wales Y

Parliamentary election status

Exempt from UK parliamentary elections N

Signatures

Proposed registered party leader

I declare that I am authorised to sign this application on behalf of the above named party.

Signed

Printed name Date
dd mm yyyy

Proposed registered party nominating officer

I declare that I am authorised to sign this application on behalf of the above named party.

Signed

Printed name Date
dd mm yyyy

Proposed registered party treasurer

I declare that I am authorised to sign this application on behalf of the above named party.

Signed

Printed name

Date
dd mm yyyy

For electoral commission use

Date of receipt
dd mm yyyy

Checked by

Party name

Primary name
Language
Secondary name
Language
English translation

Address (party headquarters or for correspondence if no HQ)

Address

Town
County
Postcode
Country
Telephone number Extn
Fax number
Email address
Website address

Party officers

Party Leader

Title

First name(s)

Surname

Home address

Telephone number

Extn

Fax number

Email address

If leader for a particular purpose, please specify

Nominating Officer

Title	Mr		
First name(s)	Paul		
Surname	Golding		
Home address	[REDACTED]		
Town	[REDACTED]		
County	[REDACTED]		
Postcode	[REDACTED]		
Country	[REDACTED]		
Telephone number	[REDACTED]	Extn	
Fax number			
Email address	[REDACTED]		

Treasurer

Title	Mr		
First name(s)	Timothy		
Surname	Burton		
Home address	[REDACTED]		
Town	[REDACTED]		
County			
Postcode	[REDACTED]		
Country	[REDACTED]		
Telephone number	[REDACTED]	Extn	
Fax number			
Email address	[REDACTED]		

Financial and organisational information

An online payment of £150.00 has been initiated.

Copy of party's constitution enclosed?

 Yes No

(tick as appropriate)

Copy of financial scheme enclosed?

 Yes No

Please return the form to:
Party and Election Finance
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ

Tel: 020 7271 0616
Fax: 020 7271 0505
Email: pef@electoralcommission.org.uk
Website: www.electoralcommission.org.uk