

Sent via email: [REDACTED]

29 July 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

### Internal review of FOI request FOI 050-22

Thank you for your email to [FOI@electoralcommssion.org.uk](mailto:FOI@electoralcommssion.org.uk) of 8 July 2022 seeking an internal review of your request for information, reference number **FOI 050-22**

In seeking an internal review you made the following comments:

*I note the response but would actually request a review of all points but particularly of F & I. One is now aware that while not within the dates given the commission has "Received Catholic people" or at least one Catholic person, that person actually being the late David Amess MP which I was greatly impressed by. It was good to see and I am sure good for other Catholics if they saw it to see David wearing the dark blue "Electoral Commission" jacket when he was alive. While Catholics are not the only people that should be included in an electoral commission in any democracy, they like any other group of people should not be excluded. I request a review of part F and I because the last council elections including the last Scottish Parliament elections have from the information gathered by the requestor produced some instances of disabled people being prohibited by both direct including indirect discrimination from participating in voting - which is worrying. One case I studied recently was of a wheelchair bound Scottish Parliament candidate whom was allegedly told by a guard at the Parliament that she was breaking covid rules by being present in the area. She was also told allegedly that she had the wrong security pass for entry which was not true actually and further excluded from other none disabled candidates by being not given access to sit with them she further alleged. The state was incorrect in that case apparently which the disabled candidate did acknowledge was a tragedy from the government as the Scottish Parliament spent a lot of effort and money to ensure disabled people can participate so to her it was the fault of one discriminatory enabled male with a uniform that spoiled the whole thing for the Parliament and the disabled standing for election. The second case in which I personally witnessed was of another wheelchair bound women whom had language and comprehension issues during the Scottish council elections she apparently had recently moved from one council area to another and had filled in a voter's registration form. Expecting to vote she was turned away as she had been not registered. The reason for that was legal, yes, she had registered on the form however there were other parts it transpired when I and others got involved at her distraught and confused request, that she had not filled in, certain parts required to legally ensure her registration so according to the law the state where correct to deny her the vote but the state did recognise that more should have been done in terms*

*of disability access to ensure the women understood it in a way she could understand in order for her to meet the legal requirements in the first place. Thankfully the problem is sorted for that person and in any future election they are now fully registered and reassured they will be able to vote. I say all of this as it's relevant to point F & I. One has been very observant to the disabled electorate during the elections of this pandemic their are issues with disability access to the right to vote and I know that is something the commission is keen to promote irregardless of the party the disabled person votes, that they like all other subjects, should be made able to vote. I would therefore expect the commission to have some information at F and I and would request this is rechecked again and if any information does actually exist for it to be disclosed. I believe the commission should be very observant of the disabled community in future elections.*

### **Outcome of your internal review:**

Your original request for information was as follows:

*Please disclose all and any information concerning:*

*A) All incidences at this organisation of anti French racism.*

*B) All incidences at this organisation of anti Catholic sectarianism.*

*C) All incidences at this organisation of anti Learning disabled ablism.*

*D) All initiatives at this organisation to promote appreciation of the French identity.*

*E) All initiatives at this organisation to promote appreciation of the Catholic faith.*

*F) All initiatives at this organisation to promote appreciation of Learning disability.*

*G) All receptions at this organisation of French people.*

*H) All receptions at this organisation of Catholic people.*

*I) All receptions at this organisation of Learning disabled people.*

*Between 12/10/2021 - 30/5/202*

I understand that you are asking for a review on the following basis:

- That you are of the view that we have in fact 'received' a Catholic person, David Amess MP
- That you are aware of barriers faced by learning disabled people when voting and would expect the Commission to hold information about promoting 'appreciation of learning disability'

It may help if I explain how we interpreted your original request which our response is based on. We understood your request to be relating to internal Electoral Commission staff members and it was on that basis that we responded.

With that interpretation in mind, in relation to requests D-I we do not collect the data that you are asking about. Accordingly, we do not hold the information. In relation to your requests A-C we do not hold the information that you requested. On that basis we said there had been no instances.

Having undertaken the review, I am satisfied that interpretation was reasonable and that the response was appropriate.

I have completed this review because I am a member of the Electoral Commission's management team and I was not previously involved in the original response to your request.

If you remain dissatisfied with our response, you can appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. For further details about the appeal procedure please visit [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Majella La Praik

Head of Registration and Reporting  
**The Electoral Commission**