From: FOI
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 078-22 - Response
Date: 25 October 2022 08:12:02

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI-078-22

Thank you for your emails to the Electoral Commission dated 2nd and 3rd October 2022.

The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly and has done so within the statutory timeframe of twenty working days.

Your requests are shown below followed by our response.

1. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Anneliese Dodds MP since 2015?
2. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Andrew Smith since 2015?
3. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Hannah Riley since 2015?
4. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Mary Clarkson since 2015?
5. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with David Evans since 2015?
6. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Jennie Formby since 2015?
7. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Iain McNicol since 2015?
8. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Brad Baines since 2015?
9. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Ellie Buck since 2015?
10. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Amy Fode since 2015?
11. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Tom Watson since 2015?
12. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with South East Labour Regional Office since 2015?
13. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with London Labour Regional Office since 2015?
14. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Jenny Chapman since 2015?
15. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with West Midlands Labour Regional Office since 2015?
16. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini since 2015?
17. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Jabu Nala-Hartley since 2015?
18. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Susan

Brown since 2015?

19. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Alex Hollingsworth since 2015?

20. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Liz Brighouse since 2015?

21. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Rachel Reeves MP since 2015?

22. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Ed Miliband MP since 2015?

23. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Angela Rayner MP since 2015?

24. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Dawn Butler MP since 2015?

25. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Marsha de Cordova MP since 2015?

26. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Thames Valley Police since 2015?

27. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Surrey Police since 2015?

28. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Shaista Aziz since 2015?

29. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Oxford City Council since 2015?

30. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Oxfordshire County Council since 2015?

31. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with the Home Office, the Foreign Office, the DWP, HMRC, the Treasury, the Department of Health and Social Care and the Department for Education since 2015?

32. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with the Vice-Chancellors of Oxford University, Exeter University, Cambridge University and SOAS since 2015?

33. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with the Principal of Homerton College since 2015?

34. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Jonathan Lord MP since 2015?

35. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with the Chief of SIS since 2015?

36. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with the Heads of MI5 and GCHQ since 2015?

37. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Devon Police since 2015?

38. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with the Met Police since 2015?

39. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Ngaire Woods since 2015?

40. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Eugene Rogan since 2015?

41. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Karen O'Brien since 2015?

42. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Chris

Patten since 2015?
43. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Oliver Dowden MP since 2015?
44. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Liz Truss MP since 2015?
45. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Kwasi Kwarteng MP since 2015?
46. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Rishi Sunak MP since 2015?
47. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Sajid Javid MP since 2015?
48. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Penny Mordaunt MP since 2015?
49. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Layla Moran MP since 2015?
50. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Victoria Prentis MP since 2015?
51. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Robert Courts MP since 2015?
52. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Ed Vaizey since 2015?
53. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with David Cameron since 2015?
54. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Boris Johnson MP since 2015?
55. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Nadine Dorries MP since 2015?
56. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Nigel Farage since 2015?
57. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Priti Patel MP since 2015?
58. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with George Osborne since 2015?
59. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Roy Kennedy since 2015?
60. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Janet Royall since 2015?
61. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Helen Ghosh since 2015?
62. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Helen King since 2015?
63. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Helen Mountfield since 2015?
64. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Ben Bradshaw MP since 2015?
65. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Jacob Rees-Mogg MP since 2015?
66. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Diana Johnson MP since 2015?
67. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with the Fabian Society since 2015?

68. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Olivia Bailey since 2015?
69. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Alex Sanderson since 2015?
70. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Nan Sloane since 2015?
71. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Becky Boumelha since 2015?
72. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Felicity Leary since 2015?
73. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Peter Leary since 2015?
74. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Rob Lemkin since 2015?
75. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Ann Black since 2015?
76. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Shabana Mahmood MP since 2015?
77. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Luke Akehurst since 2015?
78. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with We Believe in Israel since 2015?
79. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Labour Friends of Israel since 2015?
80. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Jeremy Corbyn MP since 2015?
81. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Ian Lavery MP since 2015?
82. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Momentum since 2015?
83. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Israeli, Chinese, Swiss, US, Canadian, French, EU, Pakistani, Qatari, Palestinian, Saudi, Bahraini government representatives since 2015?
84. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Gordon Brown since 2015?
85. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Tony Blair since 2015?
86. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with John Woodcock since 2015?
87. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Ian Austin since 2015?
88. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Luciana Berger since 2015?
89. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Pat McFadden MP since 2015?
90. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Bridget Philipson MP since 2015?
91. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Abena Oppong-Asare MP since 2015?
92. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Fleur Anderson MP since 2015?

93. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Helen Hayes MP since 2015?
94. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Keir Starmer MP since 2015?
95. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Universities UK since 2015?
96. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Rachel Reeves MP since 2015?
97. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with the Information Commissioner's Office since 2015?
98. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Dan Carden MP since 2015?
99. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with the Bank of England since 2015?
100. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Richard Leonard since 2015?
101. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Anas Sarwar MSP since 2015?
102. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with the British Army since 2015?
103. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Tom Blenkinsop since 2015?
104. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Roy Rickhuss/ Community union since 2015?
105. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with UNISON / Christina McAnea since 2015?
106. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with USDAW / Paddy Lillis since 2015?
107. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Unite / Len McCluskey / Sharon Graham since 2015?
108. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Frances O'Grady / the TUC / Paul Nowak since 2015?
109. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Alastair Campbell since 2015?
110. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Peter Mandelson since 2015?
111. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with NSO Group since 2015?
112. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Mark Regev since 2015?
113. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Rebecca Long-Bailey MP since 2015?
114. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with the Royal Navy since 2015?
115. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Ben Wallace MP since 2015?
116. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Angela Richardson MP since 2015?
117. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Michael Gove MP since 2015?
118. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with ACORN /

ACORN Oxford since 2015?

119. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Dominic Raab MP since 2015?

120. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Claire Coutinho MP since 2015?

121. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Rupert Murdoch since 2015?

122. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Douglas Murray since 2015?

123. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Nigel Farage since 2015?

124. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Global since 2015?

125. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Katie Hopkins since 2015?

126. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with IPPR since 2015?

127. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Katherine Viner since 2015?

128. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with Alun Rusbridger since 2015?

129. How many meetings have the Chief Executive and Chair had with US government representatives since 2015?

130. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with David Cameron since 2015?

131. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with George Osborne since 2015?

132. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Theresa May since 2015?

133. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Suella Braverman since 2015?

134. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Sayeeda Warsi since 2015?

135. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with the Muslim Council of Britain since 2015?

136. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Theresa Villiers since 2015?

137. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Andrea Leadsom since 2015?

138. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Simon Clarke since 2015?

139. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Dan Jarvis since 2015?

140. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Andy Burnham since 2015?

141. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Sarah Church since 2015?

142. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with the South West Labour Regional Office since 2015?

143. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Iain Duncan Smith since 2015?

144. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Naz Shah since 2015?
145. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Afzal Khan since 2015?
146. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Nus Ghani since 2015?
147. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Khalid Mahmood since 2015?
148. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Rosena Allin-Khan since 2015?
149. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Nicola Sturgeon since 2015?
150. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with David Miliband since 2015?
151. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Jack Straw since 2015?
152. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Harriet Harman since 2015?
153. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Jacqui Smith since 2015?
154. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with David Blunkett since 2015?
155. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with John Prescott since 2015?
156. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with the Director-General, Laura Kuenssberg and BBC Oxford since 2015?
157. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy since 2015?
158. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Young Labour since 2015?
159. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Labour Women's Network since 2015?
160. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Young Fabians since 2015?
161. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Fabian Women's Network since 2015?
162. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with BAME Labour since 2015?
163. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Progress since 2015?
164. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with Labour First since 2015?
165. How many meetings have the Chair and Chief Executive had with the Labour Muslim Network since 2015?

On 10 October we contacted you for the following reasons:

a. To ask for clarification of the wording used in your questions. Were you only interested in meetings where both the Chair and the Chief Executive were present, or where one or the other of them attended?

b. To explain that this is a sizeable request that would likely exceed the cost limit for compliance. We asked you to narrow the scope of your enquiry and explained how you could refine your request; for example, with key words to search for, or by limiting the timeframe.

You responded the same day, as follows:

a. *Where either one of them was present.*

b. *Please process the request as is.*

Our response is as follows:

We may hold the information you have requested; however, as explained in our email to you on 10 October, section 12 of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act allows us to refuse to process requests which are too costly to fulfil. For Central Government this is defined as a request which would cost us more than £600 to compile.

The biggest cost is staff time. We calculate this cost at a rate of £25 per hour of work, regardless of the grade of the person doing the job. This means that a request taking more than 24 hours can be refused.

When calculating the time it would take, we can take into account:

- determining whether we hold the information
- finding the requested information or records
- retrieving the information or records
- extracting the information from records (case files)

For this request, the following calculations apply:

We do not have a central list of all meetings held, so to complete a thorough search for information we will have to manually look back through calendars, briefing notes, and emails for each of the meetings you have asked about. To do so will take at least 15 minutes per meeting per year.

You have asked 165 questions, each about meetings with different individuals/groups. A 15 minute search per question of one year's records equates to:

15 x 165 = 2475 minutes

We will need to search eight years of records (2015 to 2022):

8 x 2475 = 19,800 minutes = 330 hours

Which far exceeds the compliance limit.

Under the FOI Act we can either refuse to respond to the request or charge the requester for the work involved. Please be aware that the Commission does not

accept payment; we are, therefore, refusing your request.

Should you wish to submit another request for information about meetings held by either the Chair or Chief Executive of the Commission please limit your request to either the Chair OR Chief Executive, and to a maximum of 8 named individuals. Please also provide key words, phrases, or topics for discussion, for us to focus our search on. Without all this information we will not be able to process your request.

The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority, but in some circumstances we are unable to release the requested information.

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
electoralcommission.org.uk