From:	FOI
To:	[redacted]
Subject:	Freedom of Information Request - FOI 189/18 - Response
Date:	15 March 2019 16:36:32
Attachments:	FOI 189-18 Excerpts - 15_03_2019.pdf

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI 189/18

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 28 November 2018.

The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly and regrets that is has not done so within the statutory timeframe of twenty working days.

Your request is in bold below followed by our response.

1) All internal correspondence and communications held by the Electoral Commission that mentions or refers to (a) Momentum (b) Momentum Campaign (Services) Limited and (c) Jeremy For Labour Limited.

2) All external correspondence and communications held by the Electoral Commission that mentions or refers to (a) Momentum (b) Momentum Campaign (Services) Limited and (c) Jeremy For Labour Limited.

I define correspondence and communications as including (but not limited to) the following:

- **Emails**
- **Letters**
- **Invoices**
- **Memos**
- **Briefings**
- **Research documents**
- **Press clippings**
- **Invitations**
- **Presentation slides**

Below clarification was provided on 3 January 2019:

Please note that I have requested information on three separate entities: Momentum (the political organisation) and two limited companies: "Momentum Campaign (Services) Limited" and "Jeremy For Labour Limited".

In addition to "momentum", "Momentum Campaign (Services) Limited" and "Jeremy for Labour Limited" you could also use the following key words in connection with the subjects of this request:

"The World Transformed"
"My Nearest Marginal"
"Carpool"
"crowdfunder"
"TSSA" / "transport salaried staffs' association"

"national coordinating group"
The directors of the two limited companies: Jon Lansman, Jonathan Lansman, Christine Shawcroft, Sam Tarry, Samuel Tarry, Cecile Wright.

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested.

We part responded to your request for information on 17 January 2019. In that response we advised you that:

We have also identified a number of emails which relate to your request, however they are currently being reviewed and redacted and will be released to you as soon as this has been completed.

I am pleased to confirm that the emails have now been reviewed and redacted, where required.
We have released the information to you in a number of ways:

- Part of the information has been released in an extracted format. Please find the PDF attached. Emails have been extracted where the remainder of the information is considered to be **exempt under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act** or the information is not considered to be in scope of your request. We have taken this course of action as the alternative would have been to send you documents which were redacted but for a single sentence or similar.

- Section 40(2) provides for an exemption where the information requested constitutes personal data as defined by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA), and where release of the information requested would breach one of the data protection principles. The information contained in the requested information falls within the description of personal data as defined by section 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) because the information relates directly to an identifiable living individual.

- Documents have been released to you via Objective Connect. Please find the steps below which details how to access the information.

To access your documents via Objective Connect:
You will receive an 'Invitation to Objective Connect Email Notification' (sent to the inbox of [redacted]). This notification will contain a link to enable you to start accessing your information. Please find below details on how to access the specific area we have set up for your documents.

1. Click on the link in the email.

2. You will be prompted to set up your username and password. Your username will be your email address, and your password can be whatever

you like.

3. With your username and password, enter both details at the login screen and click ‘login’.

4. You will now see your personal page, which will show the Share ‘FOI 189/18.

5. By clicking on the name of the share, you will find your documents.

6. You may view any of these documents

7. In addition you may download a copy to your personal computer by selecting the ‘download’ option and then ‘save as’.

This service will be closed 1 month from our response date, this is the **15 April 2019**.

There are however correspondence and communications that are exempt under section 30 of the FOI Act.

Exemption under section 30 of FOI Act

An investigation was announced on 7 December 2017, and was ongoing at the time of your FOI request. For clarity the exemption continues to apply after the conclusion of the investigation. The outcome of this investigation has now been publicised, and can be found here:

https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/journalist/electoral-commission-media-centre/party-and-election-finance-to-keep/momentum-fined-by-electoral-commission-for-multiple-breaches-of-electoral-law
For the following reasons, correspondence and communications in relation to this investigation are exempt.

The Commission has a statutory function to conduct investigations into potential breaches of the reporting requirements in Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (“PPERA”).

Section 30(1)(a)(i) of the FOI Act provides for exemption from disclosure of information which has been held at any time by a public authority for the purpose of any investigation which the authority has a duty to conduct with a view to it being ascertained whether a person should be charged with an offence.

The public interest test

Applications of the section 30 exemption is subject to the public interest test. There are a number of factors that must be considered and weighed in the balance. The factors we have considered are set out below.

The public interest lies in enabling the Commission to undertake inquiries as part of its investigation powers so that it can make regulatory decisions based on a firm factual basis and to gather such evidence and facts on a confidential basis. It is in the public interest to maintain this confidentiality, as it encourages the free and frank exchange of information from third parties to the Commission without which

the Commission could not perform its statutory functions.

The Commission aims to be robust and fair in its regulatory decisions. We acknowledge that there is a legitimate public interest in carrying out investigations in an open and transparent way, and in promoting public understanding of the decisions we make as a regulator. These are matters we acknowledge and take into account, including when deciding whether to disclose information, whilst ensuring proper regulation of party political funding. In this case we consider that our publication of a detailed summary of the case meets that need for openness and transparency.

In carrying out effective inquiries the Commission depends on being able to secure the cooperation of those individuals and entities from whom we seek information. Whilst the Commission has powers to require information, the co-operation of the regulated community and other enforcement agencies remains essential to our ability to conduct our statutory functions. As our investigations rely on gathering evidence from these individuals and entities it is clearly in the public interest that we maintain their co-operation and avoid releasing information that could prevent exchange of relevant information in the future and have the effect of hindering our ability to conduct our statutory functions.

Those individuals and entities had, and continue to have, a reasonable expectation that information provided in the course of the investigation would not be made available to the public at large. If information provided in the course of our investigation was made public under the FOI Act, it would make individuals and entities reluctant to co-operate and may prejudice interactions with them as well as others in the future. This would in turn impact on the type, timeliness, and quality of information provided to the Commission during its investigations which would prejudice the Commission's ability to conduct its statutory functions.

Decision on disclosure

Having carefully weighed the public interest relating to possible disclosure of the information requested under sections 30(1)(a)(i) of the FOI Act, the Commission is satisfied that it is not appropriate at this time to disclose the information which the Commission holds for the purpose of this investigation.

We consider that disclosure of the information you have requested would prejudice the exercise of the Commission's statutory functions and its ability to conduct investigation such as in this matter, and is satisfied that maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

I trust that this information satisfies your request. The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority, but in some circumstances we cannot responsibly release requested information, and we ask for your understanding in this regard.

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,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Access to Information Officer (FOI and DPA)

The Electoral Commission
FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk
electoralcommission.org.uk

We have located some excerpts in our internal and external correspondences that relate to your request. They are provided below. You will notice that we also include a brief description of the excerpts context, such as; the date sent or received, the correspondence subject, and our reference code, in order to give you some clarity to their inclusion.

The entire correspondence these excerpts relate to have not been provided as they falls outside the scope of your request and/or relates to other matters.

Internal Correspondence
Subject: **FW: Monday morning briefing** Date: **08/05/2017 10:12:35** To: **[REMOVED]; Bob Posner; Tom Hawthorn** From: **Louise Edwards** EC ref: **Staff Upload 9** "The advice service remains very busy, as does our contact with parties and NPCs about the election. For example, last week we met [REMOVED] and Momentum"
Subject: **FW: Outgoing letters W/C 11 July** Date: **15/07/2016 16:19:14** To: **Executive Team** Cc: **Public Affairs Team; Louise Edwards** From: **[REMOVED]** EC ref: **Staff Upload 29** "2. Emma Reynolds MP got in touch to express concern about the fact Momentum has not declared any donations – [REMOVED]."
Subject: RE: Press release – under £250K **Spending Date: 07/11/2017** **To: [REMOVED] From: [REMOVED]** **EC ref: Staff Upload 33** '"So I think fill in the LTT and let's take it from there. The big thing is what is happening with Momentum. We need very clear lines on that"'
Subject: RE: In the News – Tuesday 28 November 2017 Date: 28/11/2017 **To: [REMOVED] From: [REMOVED]** **EC ref: Staff Upload 36** "**Momentum – The Times** reports today that "Jeremy Corbyn's left-wing supporters have been accused of carrying out an "aggressive purge" of centrist councillors to put up their own candidates in local elections next year." The article reports that in Haringey tensions "have become so bad that centrist organisers called for the regional party to take over the selection process", and many councillors have stepped down or been de-selected. Momentum is reported to have said: "We think it's fantastic that hundreds of thousands of people new to politics have felt so inspired that they've joined the Labour Party…We should trust local members to be the best judge of who should represent their community.""

Subject: **RE: In the News – Thursday 30 November 2017 Date:** **30/11/2017**
To: **[REMOVED]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 37**

'"Labour's elections candidates – Owen Jones in the Guardian today reacts to yesterday's Times article on "Moderates forced out by hard left in Labour purge." Jones puts the other side of the story saying "members have democratically decided that some sitting councillors should face an open contest. This happened automatically until a rule change last year. Calculating that they will lose to a left-wing alternative, some have stood down." He goes on to say "this is what is known as "democracy", and references what is happening in Haringey. Jones concludes saying "The truth is this: the right-wing press, the Tories and the vested interests who fund and support them are terrified of Momentum", and "democratisation of the Labour party is a good thing – and necessary if a democratic socialist society really will be built."'

Subject: **RE: External Issues**
Meeting Date: **01/12/2017**
To: **[Tom Hawthorn; Bob Posner; Phil Thompson; Louise Edwards; All Regional Office Staff; Internal Communications; REMOVED]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 38**

'"Enforcement announcement – Still TBC but announcement of an investigation into Momentum's UKPGE spending return is pencilled in for Thursday"'.

Subject: **RE: External Issues**
Meeting Date: **04/12/2017**
To: **[Claire Bassett; Craig Westwood; REMOVED]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 38**

'"Regarding Momentum, yes we're assuming it will be of press interest and are deliberately holding until Thursday at the earliest to ensure all activity around John's speech is out of the way first"'

'"On Momentum announcement I think we should assume this will get interest as stories around them seem to be gaining traction this week"'

Subject: **Briefing for**
meeting Date: **17/04/2018**
To: **[REMOVED]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 60**

'"Briefing for meeting – Current investigations – Momentum is under investigation, looking at:

- whether or not Momentum spent in excess of the spending limits for an unauthorised non-party campaigner in the UK Parliamentary general election;

- whether or not Momentum submitted a return that did not include accurate donation information and/or the required declaration stating that the donation return was complete and accurate;

- whether or not Momentum submitted a return that was not a complete statement of payments made in respect of controlled expenditure;
- whether or not Momentum submitted a return that did not include all invoices for payments more than £200"'

Subject: **RE: Priority Monitoring for Electoral**
Commission Date: **24/04/2018**
To: **[REMOVED]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 53**

'"HoC Written Questions Tabled – Electoral Commission" data-date="2018-04-23". Mr Simon Clarke: To ask the hon. Member for Houghton and Sunderland South, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what the status is of the Electoral Commission investigation into the activities of Momentum during the 2017 General Election campaign. (136941) (Speaker's Committee on the
Electoral Commission)"'

Subject: **RE: Monday Lunchtime Update and Weekly Look**
Ahead Date: **15/10/2018**
To: **[Team]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 33**

"Momentum's Red October event in Manchester – speakers include: Shadow BEIS Secretary Rebecca Long-Bailey"

Subject: **RE: Press release – under £250k spending**

Date: **07/11/2017**
To: **[REMOVED]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 46**

‘“The big thing is what is happening with Momentum”’

Subject: **RE: Sir John Holmes speech in Brussels Date:** **[REMOVED]**
To: **[REMOVED]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 61**

‘“What we have seen in the UK is the increasing emergence of organisations that are not part of political parties, but operate alongside them and very much in support of them. An example of this is Momentum, which is very active in campaigning, working alongside the Labour Party in the UK”’

External Correspondence

Subject: **RE: [REMOVED]**
Date: **24/11/2018**
To: **[REMOVED]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 10**

‘“(Medway Labour Momentum Co-ordinator in January 2018)”’

Subject: **RE: New contact form submission Date:** **16/05/2017**
To: **[REMOVED]** **From:** **[info_inbox]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 49**

‘“Since all political groupings from registered parties (eg Conservatives) to ginger groups (eg Momentum) use Facebook to influence political opinion, I am writing to ask whether the Electoral Commission treats Facebook as a media company?”’

Subject: **RE: Monday lunchtime update and weekly look ahead – Monday 22/11/18 Date:** **22/11/2018**
To: **[Team]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 32**

‘“Europe for the Many conference at LSE – 2nd day speakers include: Portuguese Prime Minister addresses Antonio Costa (5.15 pm), Green Party deputy leader Amelia Womack and Laura Parker of Momentum”’

Subject: **RE: Protecting the Debate consultation**
Date: **23/08/2018**
To: **[REMOVED]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 27**

“The PPERA provisions:
We have generally taken the view that PPERA is more broadly worded and can apply where the definition of s143A can apply, ie that can be outside of a regulated period. Time is not really relevant to its application, so in that sense it applies at all times but it only applies where the definition in s143A applies, as an example of this, Momentum are doing some campaigning around specific Tory candidates at the moment, we would expect them to have an imprint on their material. Whether we would ever be able to enforce it is another matter.”

Documents
The below extract was taken from an assessment produced on the 03 May 2017. **EC Ref: 8** *"The World Transformed grew out of Momentum, the social movement formed after the election of Jeremy Corbyn. Our first event was #TWT2016 - a four day festival of politics, art, music and culture that took place alongside the Labour Party Conference in Liverpool, 2016.* *When talking with the Commission it was confirmed that The World Transformed and Momentum are two separate entities"*

EMMA REYNOLDS MP

(WOLVERHAMPTON NORTH EAST)

www.emmareynolds.org.uk

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Tel: 01902 397698 Fax: 01902 397538

emma.reynolds.mp@parliament.uk

[redacted]

Claire Bassett
Chief Executive
Electoral Commission
Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ

5 July 2016

By post and by email

Dear Ms Bassett,

I am writing to express concern about the fact that Momentum - the political organisation set up as a successor to Jeremy Corbyn's Labour leadership campaign - does not seem to have declared any donations.

Momentum states on its website that donations are regulated by the Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000. In February 2016, an internal document stated that they had received over £33,000 in donations as well as office space and leaflets as donations in kind, and a subsequent Guardian article claimed that their HQ was provided by the transport and travel union, TSSA. This week, Momentum announced that they were receiving £11,000 per day in donations.

I am concerned that no donations have so far been listed on the UK electoral register. I would be grateful if you could look into this matter urgently, and clarify whether Momentum has broken any rules by failing to declare the donations it has received to date.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Emma Reynolds MP

From: [redacted]
To: Press
Subject: Electoral Commission statement regarding Momentum Published: 7 Dec 2017
Date: 20 March 2018 08:32:29

I am researching the campaigning of political parties during the 2017 General Election and would be interested to know when you expect your investigation into Momentum to be concluded and whether a report of the investigtion will be made available.

Any help you can give regarding timescales would be helpful.

Thank you

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: [redacted] - Students - 16-1-18
Date: 16 January 2018 10:29:05
Attachments: image001.jpg
image002.jpg
image003.jpg

Dear [redacted]
Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission.
In certain circumstances, it is possible for someone to be lawfully registered to vote in more than one place. In order to do so, the applicant must be resident at each address, as defined in Section 5 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (the RPA 1983). Residence in the constituency or electoral area is central to the entitlement for any elector to be registered there, and the local Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) must be satisfied that the applicant is resident before determining their application.

There are several groups of people who may be entitled to be registered to vote in more than one place, including: students who live at different addresses during term time; people required to work away from their normal home address and have a second residence for that purpose; and people who own a second home.

Our guidance for EROs (which is published on our website at www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/electoral-administrator/running-electoral-registration) explains that each registration application must be considered on its own merits and that EROs will need to consider the following when determining whether or not someone is eligible to be registered at more than one address:

a person may have more than one home, but property ownership is not sufficient to establish that someone is resident at an address;

the purpose for which the second home is used will affect whether or not someone may be considered to be resident at an address, i.e. whether this is where the 'main business of life' is being conducted;

temporary presence at an address does not make a person resident there;

temporary absence does not deprive a person of their residence.

Electoral registration application forms (including the online electoral registration service at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) specifically ask whether the applicant also lives at another address. If the ERO is not satisfied that an applicant or elector is resident at a particular address, they can ask the applicant or elector to provide further information to help them determine whether they are resident for the purposes of registration. If such information is not provided, the registration application may be put on hold, and if the person is already registered, a formal review of the elector's registration may be undertaken.

Any amendment of the eligibility criteria for the registration of electors for UK Parliamentary elections would require changes in legislation and as such, would be a matter for the UK Government to propose and, ultimately, Parliament to decide. You may be aware that the UK Law Commissions reported to the Cabinet Office in February 2016 on a comprehensive set of operational reforms to electoral law. Should such an Electoral Law Reform Bill be brought forward for enactment before the next major elections, you may wish to express your views to the UK Government on whether matters such as possible voting twice should be included.
.

The department responsible for legislation relating to elections is the Cabinet Office. You may wish to raise any further concerns with the Minister for the Constitution, Chloe Smith MP, who can be contacted using the details below.

Chloe Smith MP
Minister for the Constitution
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS
Kind regards
[redacted]

Public Information
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London EC1Y 8YZ
[redacted]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
yourvotematters.co.uk
Putting voters first



You can now register to vote online
Follow us on **Twitter** | Like us on **Facebook** | Read our **Blog**
We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English

From: [redacted]
Sent: 15 January 2018 15:29
To: Public Info
Subject: New contact form submission

- Your name: [redacted]
- Your email: [redacted]
- Your telephone number: [redacted]
- Your region/country: West Midlands
- I am a...: a member of the public
- Comment/enquiry type: voter registration
- Your question: It is totally unfair to residents of university towns that their elected MPs could be ultimately determined by the transient student population. Having seen that momentum want to mobilise students in university towns to vote in that constituency particularly when that is a marginal, The system of allowing students to register to vote in 2 constituencies is flawed. They should register at their home address. They can use the postal vote so there is no reason that this practice should continue. It also prevents them from voting twice, which I understand cannot be picked up at the polling stations. We all know that this happened at the last General Election as there has been loads of boasting in the student fraternity. I have contacted my MP but unfortunately, being of the Political party likely to benefit he has not even responded. Can you suggest how else I could influence a change.
- Eich Enw:
- Eich e-bost:

- Eich rhif ffôn:
- Eich rhanbarth/gwlad:
- Rwyf yn...:
- Math o sylw/ymholiad:
- Sylwadau:
- Your postcode: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: [redacted] - Fraud - 31-8-17
Date: 31 August 2017 11:54:51
Attachments: image001.jpg
image002.jpg
image003.jpg

Dear [redacted]
Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission.
If you are concerned that electoral fraud may have been committed, you should first speak to the Electoral Registration Officer or Returning Officer for your local area. You can find local authority contact details on www.Yourvotematters.co.uk
They may be able to explain whether or not electoral fraud has been committed, and can refer your concerns to the police if necessary. They can also provide you with the details of the police contact for the relevant police force so that you can report the allegation yourself.
If you have evidence that electoral offence has been committed you should contact the police immediately. You should be prepared to give them a statement and substantiate your allegation. You can contact the police using the **101** non-emergency number. The Electoral Commission does not investigate allegations of electoral fraud.
If appropriate, the police will investigate the matter as it is the police who are responsible for this. Every police force has designated a Single Point of Contact (known as a SPOC) to lead on election-related crime and give specialist advice to local police officers. If you do not want to contact the police, you can report the issue anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** or using their online reporting service.
Kind regards
[redacted]
Public Information
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London EC1Y 8YZ
[redacted]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
yourvotematters.co.uk
Putting voters first

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We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English

From: [redacted]
Sent: 31 August 2017 11:08
To: Public Info
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Electoral Fraud 2017 Election

About twenty E.U. working-fake-students from No. [redacted] Belsize Park Gardens were seen illegally voting in the 2017 election in just one constituency within a couple of hours and I saw two lots of coloured commonwealth foreigners as tourists/VAT shoppers, holiday-

voting in UK at the same location: Belsize library, one duo black 2nd Pakistan/Sikh/Indian having earlier registered to vote possibly on the same visit. STOP this now! Get the police. They will take no notice but thy not ignore you.
Also sack Ian Buckle, Camden Council elections officer, he is probably a Momentum communist as he is a fanatic against English people and actually attacks them driving them of the council elections office when they are researching electoral fraud.
Postal voting must be stopped how is this to be done before next election. IT IS FRAUD, ALL FRAUD!!
Yours disgusted and appalled,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Subject: Democratic Audit: Youthquake 2017: how the rise of young cosmopolitans in Britain could transform politics
Date: 29 October 2018 10:20:23

Youthquake 2017: how the rise of young cosmopolitans in Britain could transform politics

Organisation: Democratic Audit
Type: Press Release
Date: 29 October 2018

In a new book, **James Sloam** *and* **Matt Henn** *examine the much-disputed rise in political participation of 18–24 year olds in the UK. They find that the overwhelming majority share a set of cosmopolitan cultural values, which has significant implications for long-term voting patterns and the increasingly entrenched intergenerational politics.*

youthquake



Women's March, 2018. Picture: Jane Scanlan, via a (CC BY-NC 2.0) licence

The 2017 UK general election was a landmark vote for young people. Younger citizens turned to the Labour Party under Jeremy Corbyn in their droves, as age replaced class as the best predictor of support for the two main parties. The election produced the largest gap in support for Labour and the Conservatives amongst 18–24 year olds for over 40 years, though much of this groundswell in support for Labour can be attributed to a hoovering up of votes from the Liberal Democrats (preventing any revival after the collapse of their 2015 youth vote) and the Greens (Figure 1).

Youth engagement also increased markedly in other ways. Firstly – and most controversially – in terms of their greater turnout. Although youth turnout figures are disputed (see here, here and here), most agree that the electoral participation of 18–24 year olds increased to levels not seen since the early 1990s. Secondly, after the Brexit referendum there was heightened discussion of politics online and through social media (over half of 18–24 year olds had consumed news about the election through these sources). There was also more intense party activism, with the Labour campaign group Momentum particularly successful in mobilising young activists – this is particularly intriguing given the 'high cost' of party activism compared to voting.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: External Communications circulation group
Subject: Electoral Commission statement regarding Momentum
Date: 07 December 2017 09:01:36
Attachments: image001.png

Good morning,
Today at 9.30am we'll be releasing the statement below on an investigation we have opened.
A full Q&A on this can be found here should you have any queries.
Thanks and best wishes,
[redacted]

Media Statement

7 December 2017

Electoral Commission statement regarding Momentum

The Electoral Commission has today (7 December 2017) announced it has opened an investigation to establish whether Momentum, a registered non-party campaigner at the 2017 UK Parliamentary General Election, breached campaign finance rules in relation to spending.
The rules governing spending at UK Parliamentary general elections by permitted participants, including non-party campaigners, are set out in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA).
The investigation will look at:

- whether or not Momentum spent in excess of the spending limits for an unauthorised non-party campaigner in the UK Parliamentary general election;
- whether or not Momentum submitted a return that did not include accurate donation information and/or the required declaration stating that the donation return was complete and accurate;
- whether or not Momentum submitted a return that was not a complete statement of payments made in respect of controlled expenditure;
- whether or not Momentum submitted a return that did not include all invoices for payments of more than £200.

It is possible that during the course of the investigation, the Commission will identify potential contraventions and/or offences under PPERA other than those set out above.

All the Commission's investigations are conducted in accordance with our Enforcement Policy.

Bob Posner, the Electoral Commission's Director of Political Finance and Regulation and Legal Counsel, said:

“Momentum are a high profile active campaigning body. Questions over their compliance with the campaign finance rules at June’s general election risks causing harm to voters’ confidence in elections. There is significant public interest in us investigating Momentum to establish the facts in this matter and whether there have been any offences.

“Once complete, the Commission will decide whether any breaches have occurred and, if so, what further action may be appropriate, in line with its enforcement policy.”

Rules for non-party campaigners

Rules have been in place since 2000 for all campaigners that spend money on regulated campaigning activities. These rules include campaigners and campaigning organisations which are not political parties but whose activities can be reasonably regarded as intending to influence voters in the run-up to an election.

The law enables non-party campaigners which wish to undertake ‘targeted spending’ – intended to influence people to vote for one particular registered political party or any of its candidates – to do so within prescribed spending limits. These are £31,980 in England; £3,540 in Scotland; £2,400 in Wales; and £1,080 in Northern Ireland. These limits apply during the regulated period which is 9 June 2016 to 8 June 2017.

Registered non-party campaigners are only entitled to spend above these limits if they have the authorisation of the political party that they are promoting. If that party provides authorisation, the registered non-party campaigner can spend up to the limit authorised by the political party. It is an offence to spend above the statutory limits without the party’s authorisation. Should the party provide authorisation for a higher spending limit, any spending by that non-party campaigner up to that limit would count towards the party’s national spending limit.

Ends

For more information, contact the Electoral Commission press office on 020 7271 0704 or press@electoralcommission.org.uk

Out of office hours [redacted]

Notes to editors

1. The Electoral Commission’s Enforcement Policy can be found here: https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/our-work/roles-and-responsibilities/our-role-as-regulator-of-political-party-finances
2. The Electoral Commission is the independent body which oversees elections and regulates political finance in the UK. We work to promote public confidence in the democratic process and ensure its integrity by:
   - enabling the delivery of free and fair elections and referendums, focusing on the needs of electors and addressing the changing environment to ensure every vote remains secure and accessible
   - regulating political finance – taking proactive steps to increase transparency, ensure compliance and pursue breaches
   - using our expertise to make and advocate for changes to our democracy, aiming to improve fairness, transparency and efficiency

The Commission was set up in 2000 and reports to the UK and Scottish Parliaments.

3. The rules regarding ‘targeted spending’ are specified in Section 94 of the Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000. The amounts that non-party

campaigners can spend on ‘targeted spending’ are detailed in the Transparency of Lobbying, Non Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act 2014.

[redacted]

Senior Communications Officer (Media relations)
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London EC1Y 8YZ
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk
yourvotematters.co.uk
Twitter | **Facebook** | **Blog**

cid:image004.png@01D1D147.3D47BD90

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Letter from your const tuen [redacted]
Date: 17 June 2017 13:10:41

Dear Ms Bassett,

I have received an email from my constituent [redacted] outlining concerns about the potential for voter fraud during last week's General Election.

[redacted] is concerned that many student electors may have voted in two locations, and notes that a key Momentum organiser has already been convicted for electoral malpractice. He would like to see these concerns investigated and I should be grateful if you could let me know whether the Electoral Commission is aware of these problems and what action it might be taking to probe them.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With kind regards,

Julia

Julia Dockerill MP
Hornchurch & Upminster

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: 14 June 2017 20:37
To: DOCKERILL, Julia <julia.dockerill.mp@parliament.uk>
Subject: Letter from your constituen [redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Phone [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Wednesday 14 June 2017

Dear Julia Dockerill MP,

I am writing to express my concerns at the mounting evidence of

election fraud following the recent General Election.

Evidence on social media suggests many voters used a second address to

vote twice, which I'm sure you're aware is a criminal offence carrying

a fine of up to £5000 on conviction.

Furthermore, the media have uncovered evidence that Momentum, the

action group supporting Jeremy Corbyn, has a Social Media Coordinator

with a previous conviction for election fraud.

I am sure you will agree that any act of election fraud undermines the

very foundations of our democracy. I respectfully request that you

raise this issue in Parliament and lobby the necessary authorities to

ensure a full and thorough investigation is carried out.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

c9c6b1f27024f6d3dc1f/0ca6145993b8b26e079f

(Signed with an electronic signature in accordance with section 7(3) of

the Electronic Communications Act 2000.)

[This message was sent by WriteToThem.com. If you have had any

problems receiving this message, please email support@writetothem.com

and we ll get back to you. See https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?
url www.writetothem.com&data 02%7C01%7Cjulia.dockerill.mp%40parliament.uk%7C6572e399909d4340538908d4b35cc6cc%7C1ce6dd9eb3374088be5e8dbbec04b34a%7C0%7C0%7C636330658426612708&sdata d7p0bsAuSDFBhKxI%2FK2UfOecDNDhzQ8eM9zuLLjjMHQ%3D&reserved 0
for more details

about the service. We have sent this email to

julia.dockerill.mp@parliament uk; if this address is out of date please

email us so that we can update our records.]

UK Parliament Disclaimer: This e-mail is confidential to the intended recipient. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender and delete it from your system. Any unauthorised use, disclosure, or copying is not permitted. This e-mail has been checked for viruses, but no liability is accepted for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this e-mail. This e-mail address is not secure, is not encrypted and should not be used for sensitive data.

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: FW: Electoral Reform Society: Labour supporters demand democratic overhaul of Westminster – new polling
Date: 16 October 2018 09:08:21

From: Randall's Monitoring
Sent: 24 September 2018 07:37
Subject: Electoral Reform Society: Labour supporters demand democratic overhaul of Westminster – new polling

Labour supporters demand democratic overhaul of Westminster – new polling

Organisation: Electoral Reform Society
Type: Press Release
Date: 22 September 2018

- *Statement from Electoral Reform Society, for immediate release, Friday, 21st September*
- *Come to 'Power for the Many: A Radical Agenda for Democracy', featuring Nancy Platts and Jon Trickett MP at The World Transformed on Sunday, September 23, from 1-3pm*

Potential Labour voters overwhelmingly back an overhaul of Westminster, according to new polling for the Electoral Reform Society (ERS) ahead of Labour's annual conference.

The polling of nearly 3,000 people by BMG Research shows 75% of those who intend to vote Labour in the next election believe that democracy is in urgent need of reform, while there are huge majorities for change among Labour's target groups.

At Momentum's 'The World Transformed' on Sunday, Jeremy Corbyn's former trade union adviser, Nancy Platts, will argue Labour must look beyond internal selections and to democracy as a whole.

She will be joined by Jon Trickett, Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office, to discuss the centralisation of power in the UK and a radical agenda for democracy.

The new polling, by BMG Research, comes as pressure grows for Labour to back democratic reform. The ERS has found there are widespread calls for devolution of power away from Westminster and overwhelming opposition to new appointments being made to the unelected House of Lords. [1]

It emerged this week that 44 CLPs have passed motions calling for proportional representation - making it among the most popular issues ahead of conference. [2]

Key Research Findings

- 75% of those who intend to vote Labour in the next election agree with the statement that '**democracy in Britain is in urgent need of reform**.' This is eight percentage points higher than among all respondents to the survey (67%.)
- Among all respondents, **older respondents are slightly more likely to agree** with this statement – an average of 68% among those 35 and older, compared to an average of 65% among those aged 34 and younger.

- **Those who voted Leave and those who voted Remain are united in the view that democratic reform is needed** – 71% for Leave voters and 66% of Remain voters agreed with the statement.
- **Poorer respondents (those in the C2DE social grade) are slightly more likely to agree** with this statement (70%) than those in the ABC1 grade (66%). A similar difference is found between BME and white respondents, with the former more likely to agree that democracy is in urgent need of reform (70% compared to 67% among white respondents)

Willie Sullivan, Senior Director (Campaigns) at the Electoral Reform Society, said:

"While most of the discussion has been about Labour's internal democracy, voters want the party to look outwards at how to revive our ailing democracy. Westminster is falling apart in more ways than one, and it's vital that Labour has a vision for restoring it.

"For three quarters of potential Labour voters to say that democratic reform is urgent is a clear message to the party leadership that this needs addressing now.

"The centralisation of power in Westminster makes the UK the European leader on regional inequality while the unelected House of Lords is a drain on the public purse. And Westminster's archaic voting system deprives millions of a voice.

"Meanwhile a proposed cut in MPs could badly hinder the scrutinising role of Parliament over the Executive and a future roll-out of Voter ID could deprive already marginalised groups of their democratic right to vote.

"Grassroots supporters want the party's leadership to provide an inspiring vision for our democracy. This is about giving power to the many, and it's high time for a new Charter for Democratic Reform. While Labour debates changes to how it selects MPs, the elephant in the room is how we elect them, too."

Shavanah Taj, Welsh TUC President, said:

"There is a growing realisation that politics cannot continue as it is if we want it to work for the many.

"From replacing the broken Westminster voting system, to finally reforming the archaic House of Lords, there are big changes which are long overdue.

"The discussions at Labour conference should form a valuable basis on which to build a democratic agenda, one where power is shared and the elitist Westminster model is reformed at last."

Notes to Editors

[1] https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/latest-news-and-research/media-centre/press-releases/poll-shows-overwhelming-opposition-to-new-lords-appointments/

[2] https://labourlist.org/2018/09/why-is-the-labour-party-machine-ignoring-members-on-voting-reform/

- Politics For The Many is a group of trade unionists campaigning for political reform. Visit www.politicsforthemany.co.uk for more information.
- ERS Scotland, Politics For The Many and Our Democracy are co-hosting Sunday's

workshop at World Transformed. Visit: https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/join-the-movement/events/our-democracy-politics-for-the-many-ers-scotland-at-the-world-transformed/

Research methodology

Question: 'To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - Democracy in Britain is in urgent need of reform.'

BMG interviewed a representative sample of 3,014 adults living in Great Britain online between 7th August and 7th September.

Data are weighted. BMG are members of the British polling council and abide by their rules. Sample size Labour valid respondents – 797. Sample size all valid respondents – 2,823

From: [redacted]
To: PEF Inbox
Subject: FW: New contact form submission
Date: 14 February 2018 09:01:03

Hi, please can you explain the non-party campaigner rules to this person.

Thanks, [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 13 February 2018 17:31
To: Public Info
Subject: New contact form submission

- Your name: [redacted]
- Your email: [redacted]
- Your telephone number: [redacted]
- Your region/country: [redacted]
- I am a...: a member of the public
- Comment/enquiry type: other
- Your question: Firstly I am not sure this question is for you but I am not sure who else to ask. The Labour Party is heavily supported and increasingly influenced by Momentum. One reads and hears about people joining the Labour Party who are members of Momentum. My question is, are Momentum now a political party in their own right and therefore should not be a part of Labour.
- Eich Enw:
- Eich e-bost:
- Eich rhif ffôn:
- Eich rhanbarth/gwlad:
- Rwyf yn...:
- Math o sylw/ymholiad:
- Sylwadau:
- Your postcode: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: FW: Momentum: NPC rules for May 2018 CCM:0324656
Date: 31 January 2018 14:46:04

Hi [redacted], in your media handbook between section 6.8 and 6.9. Can you add something about what the rules are for non-party campaigners in terms of how much they can spend campaigning at a local election and then as the overall section is about candidates, bring it back with a sub point about how much can candidates accept from non-party campaigners.
If you're not sure what to include, ask [redacted]. He's recommended the sentence below and the bit highlighted in yellow.
Thanks, [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 31 January 2018 14:20
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Momentum: NPC rules for May 2018 CCM:0324656
The spending limit is £50 + 0.5p per elector in that ward. Ignore the other bits as its complicated.
If [redacted] adds in a question about NPC limits for May, I'll do a response

---

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 January 2018 14:26
To: 'Finance Team'
Subject: Momentum: NPC rules for May 2018 CCM:0324656
Hi [redacted]
Many thanks for your call earlier to discuss non-party campaigner rules ahead of the May 2018 local elections. I have summarised the advice I provided you below. Please do let me know if I have missed anything.
You asked about the following:

- Rules for third party campaigning ahead of May 2018
- Difference between local and general campaigns
- Accounting for general campaign spending outside of a regulated period
- Accounting for NPC spending if a snap general election is called

Non-party campaigners (NPCs) are individuals or organisations that campaign in elections, but are not standing as political parties or candidates. There are two types of campaigns that can be carried out by NPCs – general campaigns and local campaigns. There are rules that govern both, but **only the local campaigning rules** apply in the elections that are currently scheduled for May 2018.

- **Local campaigns –** non-party campaigns for or against one or more candidates in a particular constituency, ward or other electoral area
- **General campaigns** - non-party campaigns for or against a political party, or particular categories of candidates, including campaigns on policies or issues closely associated with a particular party or category of candidates (for example, candidates in a certain age group)

Under local campaigning rules, where a non-party campaigns for or against one or more candidates in a particular constituency, ward or other electoral area, certain rules apply to spending on this activity. The rules apply during a particular period in the run-up to the election, which we call the regulated period. During this time there is a spending limit that applies to non-party campaigners producing campaign material for or against one or more candidates. Outside of the regulated period, the spending rules do not apply. We have produced a factsheet on the

local campaign rules as they applied to the local elections to be held in May 2017, and which can be found here. The rules are the same for May 2018 but the regulated period for candidates will differ.

Accounting for general campaign expenditure in the run-up to local elections

As per above, the general campaign rules only apply for an election regulated under the Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). These elections include the General Election, Scottish Parliamentary, Welsh and Northern Ireland Assembly elections. Whilst we are not currently in a regulated period for those elections, in the event that an early general elections is called under the Fixed Term Parliament Act, the regulated period will apply retrospectively. In this event, you will have to account for spending during the entire regulated period on general campaigning. You will not need to account for local campaigning during this period providing it has been correctly identified.

Advice for capturing spending

We would advise you to categorise any spending you incur towards a relevant election as either local or general (see definitions above). You must ensure that you do not exceed any local campaign limit (per ward) without the formal authorisation of the candidates agent. You should keep a record of any general campaigning internally.

I trust this covers our conversation but please come back to me if I have missed anything or if you would like clarification on any of the points above.

Kind regards,

[redacted]
Senior Financial Reporting Adviser
Political Finance and Regulation
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EC1Y 8YZ
Tel: [redacted]
Fax: 020 7271 0665
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
www.aboutmyvote.co.uk
Putting voters first
Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: [redacted]
To: All EC Staff - All Sites; Commissioners Protected
Subject: In the News
Date: 12 February 2018 10:24:48
Attachments: image001.png

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cid:image001.png@01D39695.F1FB2D20

Referendums

Comment: What would happen in the case of a second EU Referendum *Prospect Magazine*

Deputy Director of the UCL Constitution Unit, Alan Renwick, writes about how likely a second EU Referendum is and what factors would impact on the organisation of any referendum. Referring to the length of any referendum period, he notes that campaigners told the Electoral Commission that a four month period was the minimum amount of time suitable for a referendum period. He goes on to say "Much also has to happen before polling day is set. A referendum can be called in the UK only by an Act of Parliament. While emergency legislation is occasionally pushed through parliament in days, that is not an option for referendum legislation, as many key features of the process need detailed scrutiny. Not least, the Electoral Commission is obliged to consult on the proposed wording of the referendum question, in both English and Welsh. Quality fieldwork and analysis take time: probably closer to two months than one."

Alan Renwick also looks at the political circumstances in which a government could organise a referendum given that Article 50 has been triggered to leave the European Union.

George Soros is acting against the 'spirit of the law' with his plans to sabotage Brexit, says former chancellor Lord Lamont *Daily Mail*

Article refers George Soros and his pledge to give £400,000 to 'Best for Britain'. Lord Lamont has said that foreign donors should not be able to make donations. The article reports that donations from overseas in the run-up to the EU Referendum were prohibited by 'Electoral Commission rules'.

Today there are reports that Mr Soros will donate a further £100,000 following newspaper coverage over the past few days/

Allegations about Momentum

Momentum 'sidestepped rules to break election spending limit' *Sunday Times* (Paywall)

Andrew Gillian makes a number of allegations concerning the 2017 general election spending returns submitted by Momentum and also the non-party campaigner The World Transformed. The allegations centre on spending by The World Transformed and links to Momentum the organisation and staff that work or used to work for Momentum. The journalist writes "Even if treated as a separate group, The World Transformed's spending was more than £20,000 over the legal limit. When added to Momentum's spending, it totals just under £100,000, 2½ times the limit."

Philip Davies, Tory MP for Shipley, said: "If it is shown that Momentum have laundered money in this way to blatantly breach election laws, then Jeremy Corbyn must boot them out of the Labour Party."

Momentum said: "It is no secret that Momentum and The World Transformed work closely together to host a festival alongside the Labour conference each year. According to the Electoral Commission guidelines, Momentum and The World Transformed are not joint campaigners."

Northern Ireland

Mary Lou McDonald succeeds Gerry Adams as Sinn Fein leader The Guardian Paper reports that in her first speech as party president, McDonald said she wanted to secure and win a referendum on Irish unity. “I want us to achieve this with respect, graciousness and generosity. Irish unity cannot be a crude exercise of simply stitching north to south and returning to business as usual...Our focus must be on building Sinn Féin into an organisation that is fit for purpose, and our purpose is to win, to win elections, to increase our political strength, to realise our ambition of being in government north and south, to win progressive political victories every single day. And ultimately to win Irish unity.”

Theresa May and Varadkar to attend Stormont talks as deal looks imminent *Belfast News Letter*

Widespread reports of a meeting in Belfast taking place today between the Prime Minister, the Irish premier and the parties at Stormont as talks continue to get the power sharing agreement at Stormont back up.

Comment piece

Adam Boulton: May can save herself by attracting the female voters Corbyn is driving away *Sunday Times* (paywall)

This comment piece starts by examining how Theresa May "survived as far as parliament’s half-term break without calamity" and ends by speculating on how Theresa May can build a lead over Labour in the polls by attracting more female voters. The middle of the article is devoted to the new Conservative Party Chief Executive, Sir Mick Davis, and is focus on fundraising for the Conservative Party.

Boulton writes "The party’s new chief executive, Sir Mick Davis, and his fellow donors have informed their political counterparts in the Conservative leadership that they would be “not viable” in the commercial world but that now is not a good time to sack them. Instead they have set the politicians a strict performance test: raise £27m a year — equivalent to the party’s total income in 2016, the last year for which accounts are available — or they will be out.

The Tory party chairman used to be a big figure like Norman Tebbit or Kenneth Baker, or May once, with the experience to give the prime minister and the party firm advice. But the occupants of No 10 grew weary of an alternative centre of power. Lately, chairmen have tended to be the prime minister’s protégés rather than their masters, like Brandon Lewis who is only beginning his cabinet career.

The money men seized control in their place, as symbolised in David Cameron’s time by the unhappy transition through the joint chairmanship of Grant Shapps and Andrew Feldman, to Feldman’s supremacy. Ministers may bridle but Davis has made it clear that he calls the shots, right down to when and where ministers give their speeches."

Nicky Morgan: Conservatives helped to deliver votes for women. Now we should provide votes at 16 *ConservativeHome*

The former Cabinet Minister provides her reflections on last week’s activities in Parliament to mark the centenary of suffrage. She goes on to say that she is backing a Private Members’ Bill tabled by Labour MP, Peter Kyle about votes at 16. She says “by accepting that 16 and 17 year olds in Scotland could vote on their future during the 2014 referendum on independence, I’m afraid that the Conservative party undermined the arguments for not extending the franchise further. It is undoubtedly the case that many of today’s 18 and 19 year olds who couldn’t vote in June 2016 are furious that their futures have been decided by those aged over 70. Embracing votes at 16 would demonstrate to the next generation that the Conservative Party has something to offer them. Anything we do on tuition fees, however necessary, will only look like we are playing catch up with Corbyn. Just as the Conservatives both delivered on and then fulfilled Votes for Women, it is time for us to take the next pragmatic leap forward and get on with Votes at 16.”

Former Electoral Commission employee, Gemma Thomas

'She was my rock': Simon Thomas tells of heartbreak at losing wife Gemma *Eastern Daily Press*
Simon Thomas has given an interview the Eastern Daily Press following the passing of Gemma Thomas following a battle against blood cancer. Gemma had previously worked at the Electoral Commission. Simon Thomas says
"She joined my life halfway through Blue Peter and was with me every step of the way with Sky. It's impossible to imagine being back at a game and not having her to call. She's the wind beneath my wings. She gave me the belief when I was doubting. The two things I spoke about at her celebration were her compassion and how she was a rock. She had a generosity of spirit that you don't always see in others."
He added: "She had amazing wisdom. She had a heart for other people. She would watch the news with tears in her eyes and she wanted to start a refugee project at our church. She launched it, and that was what she was working on at the time that she died. When I am ready I will help to see that legacy fulfilled."
The article has details of how people can make donations in Gemma's memory.

Vote100

'Law's loss was suffrage's gain' *Big Issue North*
Profile of Baroness Brenda Hale of Richmond discussing in particular the gender pay cap as the UK marks the centenary of suffrage. The piece notes that "last year the West Yorkshire-born judge became the first woman to be appointed president of the Supreme Court – the latest in a trailblazing career of firsts. She was the first woman, and the youngest person ever, to be appointed to the Law Commission, overseeing a number of important reforms to family law. In 2004 she became the first appointed female Law Lord before becoming the Supreme Court's first female justice and its first deputy president before her appointment last year."
Considering how far women's equality still has to go, Hale said she is "relieved" to see women are using their vote. "The only significant difference is that women are significantly more likely than men to cast their votes in seats where a woman MP was elected. Women are also far less interested in the campaign in seats where a man was elected, and much more likely to agree that government benefits people like me if they have a woman MP. "She mistakenly refers to this being from an Electoral Commission study.

On this day

1554: Lady Jane Grey, Queen of England for nine days, was executed on Tower Green by her cousin and rival claimant to the throne, Mary.
1809: Abraham Lincoln, 16th president of the United States, was born in Kentucky.
Today's front pages

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Media Relations and Public Information Manager
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Tel: [redacted]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
Press office: 020 7271 0704
Out of office hours: [redacted]
You can now register to vote online
Follow us on **Twitter** | Like us on **Facebook** | Read our **Blog**

From: [redacted]
To: All EC Staff - All Sites; Commissioners Protected
Subject: In the News
Date: 01 June 2018 09:59:08
Attachments: image001.png

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cid:image001.png@01D39695.F1FB2D20

Donations to political parties – Great Britain

'Tories take Putin's pal £50,000…on the day Theresa May blamed Russia for Skripal poisoning' *Daily Mirror*, page 1, 7 and online
In what the paper calls an exclusive, using PEF Online data, it says that on the day the Prime Minister "was firmly pointing a finger at Vladimir Putin over the Salisbury murder bid" the Conservative Party accepted a donation from Lubov Chernukhin. The article does clarify that "It is understood she has lived here for many years and is a British citizen. There is no suggestion she has no right to donate to the Tory party."
Labour donations have dropped to lowest level since records began *Metro Online*
Further analysis of the Commission's publication of donations to political parties in Q1 2018. Article states that the amount reported by the Labour Party is the lowest amount they have reported in donations in a single quarter since records began. It adds that a senior figure in the party told the website: "We need to attract more donations to remain competitive and two General Elections in two years certainly did not help either. There would be a real worry how we would pay for another General Election campaign if another one was called this year."
Similar story on **Daily Express Online**

Welsh Youth Parliament

Registration drive for Welsh Youth Parliament launched *BBC News Online Wales*
BBC Wales reports A drive to register voters for a new Welsh Youth Parliament has been launched. People aged 11 – 18 can register to vote at this website https://www.youthparliament.wales/vote/ for online elections to be held in November. Article adds that Welsh Assembly Presiding Officer Elin Jones said the body would allow children and young people to express opinions on matters affecting them.

Brexit

'Leftwingers launch pro-EU campaign to shift Labour position on Brexit' *Guardian Online*
Article reports that "a grassroots group of Jeremy Corbyn supporters and trade unions is to launch a major UK speaking tour, billed as the leftwing campaign to remain in the EU." It says that the "Left Against Brexit tour" will include speakers Manuel Cortes, the general secretary of the transport union TSSA, Michael Chessum, who was on Momentum's first steering committee, the Labour MEP Julie Ward, the former shadow minister Catherine West, and Caroline Lucas.

On this day

1935: Driving tests were introduced and L plates made compulsory in Britain.
Today's front pages

[redacted]
Media Relations and Public Information Manager
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London EC1Y 8YZ
Tel: [redacted]

www.electoralcommission.org.uk
Press office: 020 7271 0704
Out of office hours: [redacted]
You can now register to vote online
Follow us on **Twitter** | Like us on **Facebook** | Read our **Blog**

From: [redacted]
To: All EC Staff - All Sites; Commissioners Protected
Subject: In the News - Friday 24 August
Date: 24 August 2018 10:18:00
Attachments: image001.jpg

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cid:image001.jpg@01D43A37.1568D0B0

2019 Voter ID pilots

'Exclusive: Chloe Smith: Take part in voter ID pilots to shape reform' *Local Government Chronicle*
Minister for the Constitution, Chloe Smith, has written in this publication to encourage local authorities to consider running voter ID pilots at next year's elections.

Conservative Party

Comment: 'The ageing Tories are a zombie party – but they have even bigger problems' *Guardian Online*
Political commentator starts comment piece by referring to data published by the Electoral Commission that showed Conservative Party income generated from memberships before examining what is happening 'behind the scenes' at CCHQ regarding the make-up of the party.
Comment: Have Theresa May's Tories lost half of all their members *The National*
'New figures show that Jeremy Corbyn's Labour is soaring, while the Tories are a 'zombie party'' *The Canary*

Momentum

Momentum begins press training for Labour activists *The Guardian*
Article reports "Momentum is aiming to circumvent national news outlets by training Labour activists to place news stories in local newspapers, citing concerns that party activists could have ignored a crucial part of the media industry in the last general election."

Scotland

Sunday Herald axed after 19 years *BBC News Online Scotland*
Newspaper in Scotland is to cease printing on 2 September after 19 years. It will be replaced by two newspapers – The Herald on Sunday and Sunday National

Research

The strange survival of the focus group *The Economist*
Article notes that the Commission fined Vote Leave.

On this day

2008: Gordon Brown promised that the London Games would be "the best Olympics Ever" as the official handover to Mayor Boris Johnson took place in Beijing.
Today's front pages

[redacted]
Media Relations and Public Information Manager
The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk
Press office: 020 7271 0704
Press out of hours: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Phone call at BHR
Date: 06 December 2017 14:17:22

From: Melanie Davidson
Sent: 06 December 2017 13:11
To: All Regional Office Staff
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Phone call at BHR

Hi all

Just a heads up – [redacted] has received a call today alleging that Momentum have called someone and encouraged them to vote twice.

No action required from you – but just to note if you hear anything out there. We have of course advised that the individual contact the police with any concerns they have

Thanks

Mel

Melanie Davidson
Head of Support and Improvement
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ
Tel: [redacted]
Mob: [redacted]
Fax: 020 7271 0665
England and Northern Ireland:
electoralcommission.org.uk
yourvotematters.co.uk
Twitter | **Facebook** | **Blog**

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: [redacted]
To: PEF Inbox
Subject: FW: New contact form submission
Date: 08 May 2018 09:02:28

From: [redacted]
Sent: 06 May 2018 11:43
To: Public Info
Subject: New contact form submission

- Your name: [redacted]
- Your email: [redacted]
- Your telephone number: [redacted]
- Your region/country: [redacted]
- I am a...: a member of the public
- Comment/enquiry type: candidate/party spending/funding
- Your question: Does Momentum campaigning on behalf of the Labour Party breach campaign spending rules, or is the cost of their campaigning included in the campaign costs of the Labour Party?
- Eich Enw:
- Eich e-bost:
- Eich rhif ffôn:
- Eich rhanbarth/gwlad:
- Rwyf yn...:
- Math o sylw/ymholiad:
- Sylwadau:
- Your postcode: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: PEF Inbox
Subject: FW: New contact form submission
Date: 11 May 2018 09:18:57

From: [redacted]
Sent: 11 May 2018 09:06
To: Public Info
Subject: New contact form submission

- Your name: [redacted]
- Your email: [redacted]
- Your telephone number: [redacted]
- Your region/country: [redacted]
- I am a...: a member of the public
- Comment/enquiry type: electoral fraud
- Your question: To whom it may concern, In December of 2017 it was widely reported in the media that Momentum, the Jeremy Corbyn supporting organisation, was under investigation for over-spending during the general election campaign of 2017. I wanted to ask whether there was an update to this investigation? The result of this investigation is of great nation interest and is, in my opinion, vital to the transparency of our electoral system and how it can change our lives. If Momentum failed to adhere to the rules and regulations of our democracy, it is vital that this is brought forward in the public domain. It is equally important that Momentum's name is cleared if the investigation proves otherwise. I would appreciate an update, and hopefully you will reach the results of very important work soon. Wishing you all the best. Kind regards, [redacted]
- Eich Enw:
- Eich e-bost:
- Eich rhif ffôn:
- Eich rhanbarth/gwlad:
- Rwyf yn...:
- Math o sylw/ymholiad:
- Sylwadau:
- Your postcode: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: PEF Inbox
Subject: FW: New contact form submission
Date: 07 August 2018 09:25:30

From: [redacted]
Sent: 06 August 2018 18:29
To: Public Info
Subject: New contact form submission

Your name:	[redacted]
Your email:	
Your telephone number:	[redacted]
Your region/country:	[redacted]
I am a...:	a member of the public
Comment/enquiry type:	other
Your question:	In December 2017 the Electoral Commission announced that it was commencing an investigation into possible election spending beaches by the group Momentum. There has been little media coverage of this issue since then. Could you tell me if the investigation is still ongoing or of it has been completed?
Eich Enw:	
Eich e-bost:	
Eich rhif ffôn:	
Eich rhanbarth/gwlad:	
Rwyf yn...:	
Math o sylw/ymholiad:	
Sylwadau:	
Your postcode:	[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: FW: New contact form submission
Date: 06 December 2017 14:17:07

From: [redacted]
Sent: 06 December 2017 12:44
To: Public Info
Subject: New contact form submission

- Your name: [redacted]
- Your email: [redacted]
- Your telephone number: [redacted]
- Your region/country: [redacted]
- I am a...: a member of the public
- Comment/enquiry type: postal or proxy voting
- Comments: My daughter is a student at a s west University She along with lots of other students are being " tergeted " to apply for postal votes By momentum with the explicit purpose of encouraging students to vote multiple times For labour canderdites . It is well known ,by many of my daughters peers ,that this tactic was wildly used at the last election
- Eich Enw:
- Eich e-bost:
- Eich rhif ffôn:
- Eich rhanbarth/gwlad:
- Rwyf yn...:
- Math o sylw/ymholiad:
- Sylwadau:

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: FW: In the News - Wednesday 24 January 2018
Date: 15 June 2018 12:00:28
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png

From: [redacted]
Sent: 24 January 2018 11:26
To: All EC Staff - All Sites; Commissioners Protected
Subject: In the News - Wednesday 24 January 2018

cid:image002.png@01D384AF.880BE320

Today's front pages

Electoral Commissioner

The **BBC**, **Times** [page 4], **Telegraph** [page 2], **Huffington Post**, **Politics Home** and **Mirror** all reported today that MPs voted to prevent former head of Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) Sir Ian Kennedy from being appointed as Electoral Commissioner. MPs voted by 77 to 46 against the appointment. Some MPs were vocal about their objection to the appointment, whilst others called out 'petty' MPs, including Ben Bradshaw MP on twitter.

What happens next is a matter for the Speaker's Committee that has responsibility for recruitment of Electoral Commissioners. The press and public affairs team will be monitoring development.

UKIP

The **Guardian** reports today that Nigel Farage has said Ukip faces a "reform or die" moment, as insiders allegedly say the party is losing up to 1,000 paying members a month amid the continuing chaos over Henry Bolton's future, placing severe strain on its finances. It's reported that Farage said he supported Bolton's plan to change Ukip's constitution to curb the role of the powerful national executive committee (NEC) as the party's ultimate decision maker. It's reported the party has about 24,000 members, and according to the senior insider, it is currently seeing anything close to 1,000 per month failing to renew their annual membership, which ranges from £20 to £35. The article also states that Electoral Commission figures show that in the second quarter of 2017 these totalled around £156,000, down from £246,000 in the previous three months. In 2015, the quarterly average was £750,000.

Donations

The National [print only, page 4] reports that the Prime Ministers Burns Supper has been "rocked by allegations for cash for access". The SNP has accused the celebration evening of being used to wine and dine potential donors.

Biasedbbc.org reports today on an loan from Momentum to Jeremy Corby. The article says that Momentum only registered with the Electoral Commission in 2017, and asks "where does the large loan stand?" The thread says "it's not in the EC's register of loans and donations. Uncertain of the rules on donations/loans by the likes of Momentum for leadership campaigns but certainly in election campaigns they are only allowed to spend £39,000."

For interest

Parents should be given an extra vote for every child in their family in a bid to end politicians' disastrous neglect of child health, the **Guardian** reports. Professor Neena Modi, president of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, says children are being failed and issues from child poverty to obesity are not being addressed.

The **BBC** press office reported today that Lucy Worsley will reveal in this 90 minute special, the battle that women had to wage for the right to vote was complex and hard-fought. Using original source materials to piece together a captivating telling of the forgotten stories from this period of history, Lucy will explore the range of people who fought for the vote - young and old, rich and poor, men and women, from all over the country - some of whom decided to go against every rule and expectation that Edwardian society had about them.

Theresa May, Ed Miliband, and the problem of the 'personalised political' – LSE blog

Should political leaders strive to make voters identify with their values and interests? Judi Atkins looks at Ed Miliband and Theresa May's attempts to this effect, and explains why they failed. On 13 July 2016 the new Prime Minister, Theresa May, announced her intention to lead a 'one-nation government'. Her carefully cultivated image of strength and stability provided much-needed reassurance in the aftermath of the vote to leave the European Union, and the Conservatives were soon rewarded with a 16-point poll lead over Labour. The Party's popularity remained high and, in the view of many commentators, May sought to capitalise on this by calling a snap general election for 8 June 2017.

On this Day

1961 - Hollywood screen star Marilyn Monroe divorces her husband of five years, playwright Arthur Miller.

1965 - Sir Winston Churchill has died at the age of 90 with his wife Lady Clementine Churchill and other members of the family at his bedside.

2001 - Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Mandelson resigns from the Cabinet over a passports-for-cash scandal.

[redacted]
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[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk
yourvotematters.co.uk
Twitter | **Facebook** | **Blog**

cid:image004.png@01D1D147.3D47BD90

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: FW: New contact form submission
Date: 16 May 2017 11:33:44

From: [redacted]
Sent: 16 May 2017 06:42
To: info_inbox
Subject: New contact form submission

- Your name: [redacted]
- Your email: [redacted]
- Your telephone number: [redacted]
- Your region/country: [redacted]
- I am a...: a member of the public
- Comment/enquiry type: other
- Comments: Since all political groupings from registered parties (eg Conservatives) to ginger groups (eg Momentum) use Facebook to influence political opinion, I am writing to ask whether the Electoral Commission treats Facebook as a media company? Secondly, considering that Facebook says it employs staff specifically to work with political factions who are focused on influencing and winning the 2017 general election, is the EC monitoring and regulating Facebook's action? Has the EC dedicated staff to focus specifically on the electorial activities of social media (note "MEDIA") companies, including Facebook? My enquiry is triggered in part by hearing Mrs May interviewed and questioned by Robert Person on Facebook. This seems to confirm that Facebook is a media organisation. This is an urgent enquiry so please respond by return, by the end of this week. Thanks in advance for your reply.
- Eich Enw:
- Eich e-bost:
- Eich rhif ffôn:
- Eich rhanbarth/gwlad:
- Rwyf yn...:
- Math o sylw/ymholiad:
- Sylwadau:

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Electoral Commission response on correspondence re. Momentum
Date: 17 February 2016 17:39:35

Okay and what is the next step, if this is taken forward?

When will it be "established" whether both sides know the rules - i.e.
presumably by the end of this week at the latest?

On 17 February 2016 at 17:35, [redacted] wrote:
> Hi [redacted]. No, it will not proceed to an investigation at this stage.
>
> At the moment, we are just at the stage of ensuring that both the individual and Momentum are aware of the rules. That's it.
>
> Cheers [redacted]
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: [redacted]
> Sent: 17 February 2016 17:31
> To: [redacted]
> Subject: Re: Electoral Commission response on correspondence re. Momentum
>
> Thanks [redacted]. So this could progress into an investigation?
>
> On 17 February 2016 at 17:27, [redacted] wrote:
>> Hi [redacted], as mentioned, here's our response to correspondence that we
>> have received regarding the organisation Momentum.
>>
>>
>>
>> Kind regards, [redacted]
>>
>>
>>
>> Electoral Commission spokesperson said:
>>
>>
>>
>> "Under the law, members associations are required to report any
>> donations over £7,500 to the Electoral Commission. We have received
>> correspondence from an individual who claims that donation rules have not been followed.
>> The Commission is in contact with both the individual and Momentum to
>> explain the rules that members associations must follow."
>>
>>
>>
>>
>>
>>
>>

>>
>>
>> [redacted]
>>
>> Deputy Head of Media and Public Affairs
>>
>> The Electoral Commission
>>
>> 3 Bunhill Row
>>
>> London EC1Y 8YZ
>>
>> Tel: [redacted]
>>
>> www.electoralcommission.org.uk
>>
>>
>>
>> Press office: 020 7271 0704
>>
>> Out of office hours: [redacted]
>>
>>
>>
>> You can now register to vote online
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>>
>>
>> Follow us on Twitter | Like us on Facebook | Read our Blog
>>
>>
>>
>>
>
>
>
> --
>
>
> [redacted]
> Senior Political Correspondent
> The Times
>
> [redacted]
> [redacted]
> [redacted]
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>

--

[redacted]
Senior Political Correspondent
The Times

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: [redacted] - Fraud - 8-12-17
Date: 08 December 2017 09:34:47
Attachments: image001.jpg
image002.jpg
image003.jpg

Dear [redacted]
Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission.
You are referring to the investigation we announced yesterday regarding Momentum https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/journalist/electoral-commission-media-centre/news-releases-donations/electoral-commission-statement-regarding-momentum
Allegations of electoral fraud are for the police to consider. The Electoral Commission does not have the power to investigate allegations of electoral fraud.
I should point out that political parties that spent over £250,000 campaigning at the 2017 general election have until today (Friday 8 December) to submit their spending returns to the Electoral Commission. These will be published by us in the New Year.
If you are referring to the Commission's investigation into the Conservative Party's general election spending return from the 2015 election, the Commission fined the party a record £70,000 – more details here:
https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/journalist/electoral-commission-media-centre/news-releases-donations/conservative-party-fined-70,000-following-investigation-into-election-campaign-expenses
We also produced a 38 page report on that investigation which you can see here:
http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/222935/Report-in-respect-of-the-Conservative-and-Unionist-Party.pdf
Kind regards

[redacted]
Senior Communications Officer
Public Information
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Tel: [redacted]
Fax: [redacted]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
yourvotematters.co.uk
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We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English

From: [redacted]
Date: 8 December 2017 at 00:15:42 GMT
To: press@electoralcommission.org.uk
Subject: Investigation into Momentum

Dear sirs,
I note with interest the statement of the Electoral Commission really an investigation into the activities of Momentum in relation to the last General Election.
Can you provide me with information showing the scope and depth of any similar investigation that you may have undertaken in relation to the widely reported allegation of Electoral Fraud in the same General Election by the Conservative Party?
Thank you
[redacted]
Sent from Samsung tablet.

From: [redacted]
To: Public Affairs Team
Subject: MPs correspondence for reply x2: [redacted] - double voting
Date: 05 July 2017 15:13:13

Two letter that are very similar from [redacted] about people potentially voting twice.
The [redacted] one additionally raised a question about someone on the Momentum Team having a conviction for Electoral fraud and that could undermine "foundations of democracy"

[redacted]
http://ecscrm11/CCM/main.aspx?etc=112&extraqs=formid%3df658c846-f74c-459b-b591-b97558958106&id=%7b67BFD4CA-8A61-E711-8003-005056A70053%7d&pagetype=entityrecord

[redacted]
http://ecscrm11/CCM/main.aspx?etc=112&extraqs=formid%3df658c846-f74c-459b-b591-b97558958106&id=%7b59CB0589-8B61-E711-8003-005056A70053%7d&pagetype=entityrecord

[redacted]

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yourvotematters.co.uk
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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: [redacted]
To: Craig Westwood; Bob Posner
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Momentum press release and Q&A
Date: 04 December 2017 16:13:15
Attachments: image001.png
image004.jpg

Hi Craig and Bob,
We've put together a press release and press Q&A on the Momentum investigation announcement for Thursday – it would be great if you can look over them both and let me know your thoughts by close of play tomorrow (Tuesday) please?
We propose to issue the press release at 9.30am on Thursday, therefore we can let Momentum know on Wednesday afternoon about our plan to issue a release, sending them the letter and the bullet points from the release about what we're publicly saying we're investigating. [redacted] will also flag to the Labour party on Thursday morning.
Press release:
http://skynet/dm/Functions/media/Press%20releases/Momentum%20statement.docx
Q&A:
http://skynet/dm/Functions/media/Media%20lines%20LTT/Momentum%20investigation%20LTT.docx
For social media, we plan to do a tweet similar to the Vote Leave one here. Saying; "The Electoral Commission has launched a new investigation into spending at the 2017 General Election by Momentum. Read our statement: [link]" with picture of Bob's quote as below. Do let me know if you are happy with this please?



Thanks for your help, and do let me know if you have any queries.
Best wishes,

[redacted]
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The Electoral Commission
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[redacted]
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yourvotematters.co.uk
Twitter | Facebook | Blog



From: [redacted]
To: Tom Hawthorn; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Letters for resposne - Students voting twice
Date: 23 June 2017 16:57:09

All,
You will be pleased to hear that I have responded today to 10 MPs who were asking about students voting twice. [redacted] agreed with Craig that as long as he was happy with the letters she was happy for them to go out in her absence.
The remaining student-focussed letters left from this week are below (excep[redacted] which has been agreed and is awaiting sign off from [redacted] on Monday). These remaining letters all require small additions, which I think are probably just one-liners.
Please could you take a look and let me know any thoughts and/or who else I should check with for this.
Thanks again!
[redacted]

MP	Letters	Addition needed	Deadline for response
[redacted]	Incoming letter: [redacted] to-BassettC-students-voting-twice-2017-06-17.msg Draft response: [redacted] 2017-06.docx	Line on Momentum employee who has conviction for electoral fraud http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/12144213/Key-member-of-Jeremy-Corbyns-campaign-team-has-conviction-for-election-fraud.html	Friday 30 June
[redacted]	Incoming letter: [redacted] Draft response: [redacted] 2017-06.docx	Line on Momentum employee who has conviction for electoral fraud http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/12144213/Key-member-of-Jeremy-Corbyns-campaign-team-has-conviction-for-election-fraud.html	Monday 3 July
[redacted]	Incoming letter: [redacted] students-voting-twice-2017-06-21.msg Draft response: IrvineA-to-BlackmanB-2017-06.docx	Line in response to [redacted] request: *"I think that the Electoral Commission needs to investigate this issue and propose ways to tighten regulations to prevent such manipulation of the results."*	Wednesday 5 July

[redacted]	Incoming letter: [redacted] - Students-voting-twice-2017-06-21.pdf Draft response: [redacted] 2017-06.docx	Line in response to [redacted] request: *"I would respectfully request that the Electoral Commission investigate the concerns raised by my colleagues and constituents, and take this recommendation into account during your evaluation of this year's general and local elections."*	Wednesday 5 July

[redacted]
Communications Officer
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Advice and guidance email: infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk
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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: "Momentum" and if / when they should register with the Commission
Date: 14 December 2015 09:47:59

Morning [redacted]
[redacted] will answer part 1 as he deals/oversees these.
On the second point however
The PPERA rules on non-party campaigning do not apply to elections taking place in
England in 2016-this includes the by election. There is no regulated period and no spending limit for non-party campaigners in any elections in England in 2016.
There is therefore no need to register with us as a non-party campaigners. The fact of receiving donations is not relevant to registration as a non-party campaigner.
There are rules around local campaigning at elections, but these rules are not administered by the Commission.
Unless they are somehow caught by the regulated done rules (again [redacted] may be able to cover this) they are not regulated . They are certainly not required to register in 2016 unless they plan to spend more than 10,000 in Scotland, Wales or NI in campaigning at their elections or at some point in 2016 they wish to register as permitted participants in the referendum. (assuming the referendum is held in 2016)
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 14 December 2015 09:33
To: [redacted]
Subject: 'Momentum' and if / when they should register with the Commission
Hi both,
I've had an enquiry about Momentum and if / when they may need to register with the EC as a non-party campaigner.
First of all, I presume we haven't had a request from them to register?
Second of all, at what point would they need to register with us. I see this page: http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/party-or-campaigner/non-party-campaigners
They did campaign at the recent Oldham by-election, so is it that they'd only have needed to register with us if they were intending to spend £20,000 or more at that by-election?
Also – they haven't reported any donations as yet. If they had received any donations over £7,500, would they have to register with us in any case, even if they haven't or had no intention of spending £20,000?
Thanks,
[redacted]

Deputy Head of Media and Public Affairs
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Tel: [redacted]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
Press office: 020 7271 0704
Out of office hours: [redacted]
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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: "Momentum" and if / when they should register with the Commission
Date: 14 December 2015 09:52:59

The 2015 rules applied to the UKPGE. The regulated period ended on polling day. We are not currently in a regulated period for NPCs, there is therefore no spending limit and no requirement to register. They would only be registering now if they wish to spend more than 10,000 in Scotland, Wales and NI in the regulated period that starts 5 January 2016.
Sorry if that wasn't clear. We tend to assume everybody knows we are not in a regulated period. [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 14 December 2015 09:33
To: [redacted]
Subject: 'Momentum' and if / when they should register with the Commission

Hi both,

I've had an enquiry about Momentum and if / when they may need to register with the EC as a non-party campaigner.

First of all, I presume we haven't had a request from them to register?

Second of all, at what point would they need to register with us. I see this page: http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/party-or-campaigner/non-party-campaigners

They did campaign at the recent Oldham by-election, so is it that they'd only have needed to register with us if they were intending to spend £20,000 or more at that by-election?

Also – they haven't reported any donations as yet. If they had received any donations over £7,500, would they have to register with us in any case, even if they haven't or had no intention of spending £20,000?

Thanks, [redacted]

[redacted]
Deputy Head of Media and Public Affairs
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Tel: [redacted]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
Press office: 020 7271 0704
Out of office hours: [redacted]
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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Momentum
Date: 20 October 2017 13:24:55
Attachments: image001.png

Thanks both.
To confirm, I'm going back to the journalist with the following –
Momentum are a Members Association, so you are correct in saying that they would need to report donations of more than £7.5k made to them from the same source in a calendar year. This would also apply if they had received several donations from the same source in the same calendar year which added up to more than £7.5k. Momentum have not reported any donations of more than £7.5k as a members association to us.
Momentum also registered as a non-party campaigner ahead of the 2017 general election. Non-party campaigners are required to register if they believe they may spend over the registration threshold which is £20k in England or £10k in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. Any such non-party campaigner in receipt of a donation of more than £7.5k during the election campaign period would have been required to report this before the poll. No such report was received from Momentum.
Registered non-party campaigners will also be required to complete a post poll donation report. In this report, non-party campaigners will need to report a total figure of all donations they accepted between £500 and £7,500. The returns for non-party campaigners which spent less than £250k at the general election will be published in mid-November. The returns from non-party campaigners which spent more than that amount will be published in the new year.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 20 October 2017 12:47
To: Ben Wilkinson; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Momentum

That works. Might be worth keeping a record of this for when you draw up LTTs for when we publish the spending data?

From: [redacted]
Sent: 20 October 2017 12:44
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Momentum

Thanks – would it be ok if we just amended that line to:
Non-party campaigners are required to register if they believe they may spend over the registration threshold which is £20k in England or £10k in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland

---

From: [redacted]
Sent: 20 October 2017 12:42
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Momentum

I have a slight issue with the sentence in yellow. Whilst we know they did spend over the registration threshold, lots of NPCs register "just in case" or for other reasons. They did not report any pre-poll donations and as they have spent over the threshold (we can't say this yet), they are required to also submit a post-poll donation report in which they will have to (they have) a total figure of donations they accepted between £500 and £7.5k.

The key here is that by spending over the threshold, there is then a requirement to submit a post poll donation report.
Happy to explain if easier.
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 20 October 2017 12:27
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Momentum

Hey [redacted],
[redacted] has made some changes to simplify the language. Are you able to have a look and see if all is still correct?
Thanks!
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 20 October 2017 12:25
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Momentum

Please check this with PFR
Momentum are a Members Association, so you are correct in saying that they would need to report donations of more than £7.5k made to them from the same source in a calendar year. This would also apply if they had received several donations from the same source in the same calendar year which added up to more than £7.5k. Momentum have not reported any donations of more than £7.5k as a members association to us.
Momentum also registered as a non-party campaigner ahead of the 2017 general election. This means they would have expected to spend over the registration threshold which is £20k in England or £10k in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. Any such non-party campaigner in receipt of a donation of more than £7.5k during the election campaign period would have been required to report this before the poll. No such report was received from Momentum.
Registered non-party campaigners will also be required to complete a post poll donation report. In this report, non-party campaigners will need to report a total figure of all donations they accepted between £500 and £7,500. The returns for non-party campaigners which spent less than £250k at the general election will be published in mid-November. The returns from non-party campaigners which spent more than that amount will be published in the new year.

[redacted]
Head of External Communications
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London EC1Y 8YZ
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk
yourvotematters.co.uk
Twitter | **Facebook** | **Blog**
cid:image004.png@01D1D147.3D47BD90

From: [redacted]
Sent: 20 October 2017 12:07
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Momentum

Hi [redacted]

As discussed, we received the below question from the Sun this morning. With help from [redacted] I've put together the following, let me know what you think and I'll send it off to the journalist.

Question:

Am I right in thinking that as a membership political group they need to declare any donations above £7,500?

Am I also right in thinking they have not made any such declarations? (I've checked the database on your website and cannot see any, but wanted to make doubly sure).

Response:

Hi [redacted]

Thanks for your email.

Momentum are a Members Associations, so you are correct in saying that they would need to report ~~as a regulated donor~~ donations which are over £7.5k from the same source in a calendar year, singular or aggregated. Momentum have not reported any donations over £7.5k as a members association to us.

Momentum also registered as a third party campaigner ahead of the 2017 UK Parliamentary general election. They did not report any donations in pre poll reporting (over £7.5k). Non-party campaigners which spent over the registration threshold - £20k in England or £10k in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland – will also be required to complete a post poll donation report which details all donations they received towards their campaign. Non-party campaigners will also need to report a total figure of donations they accepted between £500 and £7,500 in this report.

The reporting deadline for non-party campaigners who spent under £250k at the general elections was 8th September, and the reporting deadline for those who spent over this amount is 8th December. We will be publishing information on those who spent under £250k at the general election in mid-November, and will aim to publish information on those who spent over that amount as soon as possible after the reporting deadline.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Investigation into Momentum
Date: 08 December 2017 09:41:19

Morning [redacted]
I will get back to [redacted].
Thanks
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 08 December 2017 07:04
To: [redacted]
Cc: Press
Subject: Fwd: Investigation into Momentum
Hi [redacted] - please deal with this one as PI.
Thanks,
[redacted]

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** [redacted]
> **Date:** 8 December 2017 at 00:15:42 GMT
> **To:** press@electoralcommission.org.uk
> **Subject: Investigation into Momentum**
>
> Dear sirs,
> I note with interest the statement of the Electoral Commission really an investigation into the activities of Momentum in relation to the last General Election.
> Can you provide me with information showing the scope and depth of any similar investigation that you may have undertaken in relation to the widely reported allegation of Electoral Fraud in the same General Election by the Conservative Party?
> Thank you
> [redacted]
> Sent from Samsung tablet.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted] Press
Subject: RE: Electoral Commission statement regarding Momentum Published: 7 Dec 2017
Date: 20 March 2018 10:12:27

Hi [redacted],
Thanks for getting in touch.
The time taken to complete an investigation varies on a case-by-case basis. Once the investigation is complete, the Commission will decide whether any breaches have occurred and, if so, what further action may be appropriate, in with our Enforcement Policy – which can be found here.
The outcome of concluded cases can be seen on our website here.
If you haven't seen it already, our statement regarding Momentum can be found here.
Thanks again and best wishes,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 20 March 2018 08:32
To: Press
Subject: Electoral Commission statement regarding Momentum Published: 7 Dec 2017

I am researching the campaigning of political parties during the 2017 General Election and would be interested to know when you expect your investigation into Momentum to be concluded and whether a report of the investigtion will be made available.

Any help you can give regarding timescales would be helpful.

Thank you

[redacted]

From: Craig Westwood
To: [redacted]
Cc: Niki Nixon; Louise Edwards
Subject: RE: sign off- Written Question on momentum from [redacted]
Date: 25 April 2018 09:56:51

Thanks – have changed the order a bit and added in a factual line from our original media statement. If Louise could double-check she's content before it's sent that would be great – if she is, it's good to go.
Craig

From: [redacted]
Sent: 25 April 2018 09:31
To: Craig Westwood
Cc: Niki Nixon; Louise Edwards
Subject: sign off- Written Question on momentum from [redacted]

Hi Craig,
I have checked in with Louise, but please find below draft reply for your sign off.
http://skynet/dm/Functions/CommsPublicAffairs/Public%20Affairs/WPQ-%20136941-%2026-04-2018-%2[redacted]%20momentum.docx

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WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE HON MEMBER FOR HOUGHTON AND SUNDERLAND SOUTH, REPRESENTING THE SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE ON THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Mr Simon Clarke (Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland)

***1**

For Answer on:

26 April

(Draft)

UIN: 136941

Mr Simon Clarke (Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland): To ask the hon. Member for Houghton and Sunderland South, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what the status is of the Electoral Commission investigation into the activities of Momentum during the 2017 General Election campaign [136941]

Draft Reply

An important part of the Electoral Commission's remit is to investigate whether any offences have been committed in breach of the UK's political finance rules. It is currently investigating whether Momentum, a registered non-party campaigner at the 2017 UK Parliamentary General Election, breached campaign finance rules in relation to spending.

The Commission does not comment on live investigations. The outcome will be published in due course in accordance with the Commission's published Enforcement Policy.

We have located some excerpts in our internal and external correspondences that relate to your request. They are provided below. You will notice that we also include a brief description of the excerpts context, such as; the date sent or received, the correspondence subject, and our reference code, in order to give you some clarity to their inclusion.

The entire correspondence these excerpts relate to have not been provided as they falls outside the scope of your request and/or relates to other matters.

Internal Correspondence
Subject: **FW: Monday morning briefing** Date: **08/05/2017 10:12:35** To: **[REMOVED]; Bob Posner; Tom Hawthorn** From: **Louise Edwards** EC ref: **Staff Upload 9** "The advice service remains very busy, as does our contact with parties and NPCs about the election. For example, last week we met [REMOVED] and Momentum"
Subject: **FW: Outgoing letters W/C 11 July** Date: **15/07/2016 16:19:14** To: **Executive Team** Cc: **Public Affairs Team; Louise Edwards** From: **[REMOVED]** EC ref: **Staff Upload 29** "2. Emma Reynolds MP got in touch to express concern about the fact Momentum has not declared any donations – [REMOVED]."
Subject: RE: Press release – under £250K **Spending Date: 07/11/2017** **To: [REMOVED] From: [REMOVED]** **EC ref: Staff Upload 33** '"So I think fill in the LTT and let's take it from there. The big thing is what is happening with Momentum. We need very clear lines on that"'
Subject: RE: In the News – Tuesday 28 November 2017 Date: 28/11/2017 **To: [REMOVED] From: [REMOVED]** **EC ref: Staff Upload 36** "**Momentum – The Times** reports today that "Jeremy Corbyn's left-wing supporters have been accused of carrying out an "aggressive purge" of centrist councillors to put up their own candidates in local elections next year." The article reports that in Haringey tensions "have become so bad that centrist organisers called for the regional party to take over the selection process", and many councillors have stepped down or been de-selected. Momentum is reported to have said: "We think it's fantastic that hundreds of thousands of people new to politics have felt so inspired that they've joined the Labour Party…We should trust local members to be the best judge of who should represent their community.""

Subject: **RE: In the News – Thursday 30 November 2017 Date:** **30/11/2017**
To: **[REMOVED]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 37**

'"Labour's elections candidates – Owen Jones in the Guardian today reacts to yesterday's Times article on "Moderates forced out by hard left in Labour purge." Jones puts the other side of the story saying "members have democratically decided that some sitting councillors should face an open contest. This happened automatically until a rule change last year. Calculating that they will lose to a left-wing alternative, some have stood down." He goes on to say "this is what is known as "democracy", and references what is happening in Haringey. Jones concludes saying "The truth is this: the right-wing press, the Tories and the vested interests who fund and support them are terrified of Momentum", and "democratisation of the Labour party is a good thing – and necessary if a democratic socialist society really will be built."'

Subject: **RE: External Issues**
Meeting Date: **01/12/2017**
To: **[Tom Hawthorn; Bob Posner; Phil Thompson; Louise Edwards; All Regional Office Staff; Internal Communications; REMOVED]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 38**

'"Enforcement announcement – Still TBC but announcement of an investigation into Momentum's UKPGE spending return is pencilled in for Thursday"'.

Subject: **RE: External Issues**
Meeting Date: **04/12/2017**
To: **[Claire Bassett; Craig Westwood; REMOVED]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 38**

'"Regarding Momentum, yes we're assuming it will be of press interest and are deliberately holding until Thursday at the earliest to ensure all activity around John's speech is out of the way first"'

'"On Momentum announcement I think we should assume this will get interest as stories around them seem to be gaining traction this week"'

Subject: **Briefing for**
meeting Date: **17/04/2018**
To: **[REMOVED]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 60**

'"Briefing for meeting – Current investigations – Momentum is under investigation, looking at:

- whether or not Momentum spent in excess of the spending limits for an unauthorised non-party campaigner in the UK Parliamentary general election;

- whether or not Momentum submitted a return that did not include accurate donation information and/or the required declaration stating that the donation return was complete and accurate;

- whether or not Momentum submitted a return that was not a complete statement of payments made in respect of controlled expenditure;
- whether or not Momentum submitted a return that did not include all invoices for payments more than £200"'

Subject: **RE: Priority Monitoring for Electoral**
Commission Date: **24/04/2018**
To: **[REMOVED]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 53**

'"HoC Written Questions Tabled – Electoral Commission" data-date="2018-04-23". Mr Simon Clarke: To ask the hon. Member for Houghton and Sunderland South, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what the status is of the Electoral Commission investigation into the activities of Momentum during the 2017 General Election campaign. (136941) (Speaker's Committee on the
Electoral Commission)"'

Subject: **RE: Monday Lunchtime Update and Weekly Look**
Ahead Date: **15/10/2018**
To: **[Team]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 33**

"Momentum's Red October event in Manchester – speakers include: Shadow BEIS Secretary Rebecca Long-Bailey"

Subject: **RE: Press release – under £250k spending**

Date: **07/11/2017**
To: **[REMOVED]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 46**

‘“The big thing is what is happening with Momentum”’

Subject: **RE: Sir John Holmes speech in Brussels Date:** **[REMOVED]**
To: **[REMOVED]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 61**

‘“What we have seen in the UK is the increasing emergence of organisations that are not part of political parties, but operate alongside them and very much in support of them. An example of this is Momentum, which is very active in campaigning, working alongside the Labour Party in the UK”’

External Correspondence

Subject: **RE: [REMOVED]**
Date: **24/11/2018**
To: **[REMOVED]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 10**

‘“(Medway Labour Momentum Co-ordinator in January 2018)”’

Subject: **RE: New contact form submission Date:** **16/05/2017**
To: **[REMOVED]** **From:** **[info_inbox]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 49**

‘“Since all political groupings from registered parties (eg Conservatives) to ginger groups (eg Momentum) use Facebook to influence political opinion, I am writing to ask whether the Electoral Commission treats Facebook as a media company?”’

Subject: **RE: Monday lunchtime update and weekly look ahead – Monday 22/11/18 Date:** **22/11/2018**
To: **[Team]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 32**

‘“Europe for the Many conference at LSE – 2nd day speakers include: Portuguese Prime Minister addresses Antonio Costa (5.15 pm), Green Party deputy leader Amelia Womack and Laura Parker of Momentum”’

Subject: **RE: Protecting the Debate consultation**
Date: **23/08/2018**
To: **[REMOVED]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
EC ref: **Staff Upload 27**

“The PPERA provisions:
We have generally taken the view that PPERA is more broadly worded and can apply where the definition of s143A can apply, ie that can be outside of a regulated period. Time is not really relevant to its application, so in that sense it applies at all times but it only applies where the definition in s143A applies, as an example of this, Momentum are doing some campaigning around specific Tory candidates at the moment, we would expect them to have an imprint on their material. Whether we would ever be able to enforce it is another matter.”

Documents
The below extract was taken from an assessment produced on the 03 May 2017. **EC Ref: 8** *"The World Transformed grew out of Momentum, the social movement formed after the election of Jeremy Corbyn. Our first event was #TWT2016 - a four day festival of politics, art, music and culture that took place alongside the Labour Party Conference in Liverpool, 2016.* *When talking with the Commission it was confirmed that The World Transformed and Momentum are two separate entities"*

We have located some excerpts in our internal and external correspondences that relate to your request. They are provided below. You will notice that we also include a brief description of the excerpts context, such as; the date sent or received, the correspondence subject, and our reference code, in order to give you some clarity to their inclusion.

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Internal Correspondence
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To: **[Claire Bassett; Craig Westwood; REMOVED]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
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"Momentum's Red October event in Manchester – speakers include: Shadow BEIS Secretary Rebecca Long-Bailey"

Subject: **RE: Press release – under £250k spending**

Date:	**07/11/2017**
To:	**[REMOVED]** **From:** **[REMOVED]**
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