From: FOI
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 001-23 - Response
Date: 23 January 2023 09:33:19

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI-001-23

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission Act dated 5 January 2023 and received by the Commission on 6 January 2023.

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

Your request is shown below followed by our response.

It is with concern that I recently learned of the statutory de-registration of the Scottish Libertarian Party (http://search.electoralcommission.org.uk/Registrations/PP3906) which occured in November. This is not the first time in the Party's history this has happened, only for registration to later be granted.

As a minority and relatively new political movement Libertarianism already has significant disadvantages when compared to more established parties. Statutory de-registration only serves to place more barriers in the way.

A recent email to party members insists that statutory deregistration is due to an administration error of the Electoral Commission's making.

Trusting that the Electoral Commission would not deregister a party without good reason I therefore respectfully ask - for what possible reason the Scottish Libertarian Party was statutorily de-registered?

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested.

In order to remain registered, each year a party's registered treasurer must deliver a confirmation that their registered details are correct, along with a fee of £25. This must be delivered to us within six months of the deadline for the submission of the party's statement of accounts. The law requires that where a party does not comply with these requirements, we must remove it from the register. We have no discretion in this.

The Scottish Libertarian Party's confirmation was due by 31 October 2022.

If a party's registered details are out of date or their constitution has changed, they must also update these before, or at the same time as, confirming their registered details.

Although the party applied to change their registered details, they failed to submit a notification to confirm their registered details and pay the required fee.

As a compliant confirmation was not delivered by the deadline, we were required in law to remove the party from the register.

We received a fresh application to register the Scottish Libertarian Party in

November 2022. Our decision was to approve that application. You can find the party's entry on our public register here.

The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority and I trust that this information satisfies your request.

If you are not satisfied with this response, please note that the Commission operates a review procedure, details of which can be found on the Commission website at: https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/freedom-information/make-a-freedom-information-request.

Please also note that if you have exhausted all internal Commission review procedures and you are still not satisfied you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner. Details of this procedure can be found on the ICO website: https://ico.org.uk/.

Yours sincerely

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The Electoral Commission
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