[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 16 February 2023 08:32
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 007-23 - Response

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI-007-23

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 29 January 2023 and received by the Commission on 30 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.

1. Please provide a copy of any policy or directions on the actions to be taken by Polling Station staff if it is believed that someone has produced false ID to vote (as required from May 2023).
2. Please provide details of training or method of selection for Polling Station staff who will be checking ID documents to ensure that they are up to task of spotting false or fake ID documents.

Our response is as follows:

In relation to part 1 and part 2 (training for polling station staff) of your request, the information that you have requested is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which sets out that information that is already accessible to the requester is exempt from disclosure. The polling station handbook sets out the process to be followed by staff in the polling station if it is believed someone has produced false ID. The process for checking photographic ID is set out in Chapter 5 and Appendix 2b. Template training slides for polling station staff are also available for Returning Officers to use if they so wish. These has been published on our website as part of the wider guidance for Returning Officers for the local government elections in England in May 2023.

In relation to part 2 of your request, we do not hold information relating to training plans for, or the method of, selection of polling station staff. The method of selection of polling station staff and the implementation of training plans for such staff is the responsibility of each Returning Officer, not the Commission. Whilst the Commission provides guidance on staffing for polling stations the final decision on these matters lies with the Returning Officer.

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
electoralcommission.org.uk