[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 10 November 2022 15:38
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 085-22 - Response

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI-085-22

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act received 07 November 2022.

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.

There should be transparency in government about Mayoral Candidates Election Expenses 2021.

1
Was their a legal requirement for all Mayoral Candidates to submit Election Campaign Expenses May 2020 ?

2
Was their a legal requirement for all Mayor Candidates to submit Hmrc tax return 2020 ?

3
Was Mayor Sadiq Khan required to add his salary earned from May 2020 until May 2021 to his Mayor of London Election Campaign Expenses of 2021 ?

Answer to question 3 won't satisfy my due diligence and would ultimately result in a Judicial Review Challenge against Electoral Commission.

The question as to whether Electoral Commission work with Hmrc, does investigate Candidates return individually including their bank accounts is a matter known to Electoral Commission.

Ultimately Electoral Commission has to answer questions to UK Parliament about how it does its various jobs!
Questions being asked by me are simple, relevant and deserve quick direct answers!

4
Does Hmrc inspect Electoral Commission Mayoral Candidates May 2021 public available return?

5
Does Electoral Commission answer any questions from Hmrc about Mayoral Election Campaign 2021 return of individual candidates ?

I believe my assumption is that Hmrc and Electoral Commission work together.
Finally profit generated by Mayor of London Election Candidates are UK tax deductible!
The last point of tax status of Mayor of London Election campaign Candidates qualify my query and build merit excessively!
I am asking a lot of questions deliberately, which relate to interpreation of Election law.
I have no indication, that all the response thus far received from Electoral Commission amount to legal advice from a Solicitor or barrister.
Let us not forget, that Mayor Mr Sadiq Khan is a qualified Solicitor!
Mayor Mr Sadiq Khan must know the truthof my query! The legal relevance of my query!
Mayor Mr Sadiq Khan must know, he should have not been paid a pound (let alone his usual salary from May 2020 to May 2021) if all Mayoral Election Candidates of 2020 were not given requested compensation!

Our response is as follows:

We hold some of the information you have requested.

We have addressed your individual requests below. We note that in some cases you are not requesting information but asking questions. We have tried to be helpful in answering these questions. We are assuming that when you refer to 2020, you in fact mean 2021, as there was no London Mayoral election in May 2020. The election was scheduled for 2020 but postponed to 2021 due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

1
Was their a legal requirement for all Mayoral Candidates to submit Election Campaign Expenses May 2020 ?

Yes. Candidates in London Mayoral elections are required to report their spending in the campaign to London Elects. London Elects makes the spending returns available to the public. London Elects does not have powers to investigate those spending returns. It is an offence to knowingly submit an inaccurate spending return, and any such offence is a matter for the police.

2
Was their a legal requirement for all Mayor Candidates to submit Hmrc tax return 2020 ?

There is no requirement for a candidate to submit a tax return as part of their spending return. The spending return is required to include details of all spending promoting the candidate in the election, and any donations accepted by the candidate.

3
Was Mayor Sadiq Khan required to add his salary earned from May 2020 until May 2021 to his Mayor of London Election Campaign Expenses of 2021 ?

No. The spending return is required to include details of all spending promoting the candidate in the election, and any donations accepted by the candidate. A salary is not a donation, or spending promoting the candidate.

4
Does Hmrc inspect Electoral Commission Mayoral Candidates May 2021 public available return?

This is a question you should address to HMRC or London Elects. If HMRC inspected any of the returns provided to London Elects we would not be aware of that.

5
Does Electoral Commission answer any questions from Hmrc about Mayoral Election Campaign 2021 return of individual candidates ?

We have had no correspondence or communication with HMRC regarding candidates for the May 2021 London Mayoral election.

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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