[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 29 November 2022 08:59
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 088-22 - Response

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI-088-22

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 8 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.

I would like to request information about the percentage of electors that are opted out from being included on the edited / open electoral register since the edited register was first introduced in 2002. If possible, I would like the following information for each year:

1. The total number of electors
2. The total number of electors that are opted out

I realise that the registers are compiled by local Electoral Registration Offices and that they are published every couple of months. The reason for asking the Electoral Commission for this information is that I think you do always get copies of the full register from each and every ERO.

The aim of my request is to find out how the opt-out rate has changed over time (in particular since the changes introduced by Individual Voter Registration in 2014).

Our response is as follows:

We do not hold the information you have requested.

The Commission receives copies of the full electoral registers from Electoral Registration Officers. However, these files do not indicate which electors have opted out of the open register.

The Office for National Statistics publishes the official electoral statistics annually and may collect data on the use of the opt out.

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

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

Yours sincerely

Information Officer
FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk