[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 13 March 2023 10:49
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 015-23 - Response

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI-015-23

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 19 February 2023 and received by the Commission on 20 February 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.

Regarding the new ID requirements to vote:

https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id?utm_source=partner_social&utm_medium=social_media&utm_campaign=voter_id&utm_content=voter_id_home

I should like to see the equality impact assessment that you conducted (as required by law as a public body). Specifically I want to know why an Oyster 60+ is valid ID and an Oyster 18+ is not.

Our response is as follows:

We do not hold the information you have requested.

The new requirement for voters to show identification before they can be issued with a ballot paper at polling stations is set out in the Elections Act 2022. The Elections Act is legislation that the UK Government developed and introduced into Parliament in July 2021. Parliament approved the legislation in April 2022.

The Electoral Commission has not carried out an equality impact assessment of the new requirement because the UK Government was responsible for developing this policy and the legislation that has now been approved by Parliament. The Commission is responsible for helping to raise public awareness of the new requirement, and for providing guidance to support Returning Officers and electoral administrators to understand and implement the new requirement.

The UK Government has published a number of documents that set out their assessment of the impact of the Elections Act. These refer to the Elections Bill because they were published before Parliament had approved the legislation.

- Elections Bill Impact Assessment

- The Elections Bill Equality Impact Assessment
- Voter Identification Regulations 2022 Impact Assessment

Providing you with the weblink to this information is in line with the section 21 exemption of the Freedom of Information Act, in that the Commission does not need to repeat information that is reasonably accessible to you by other means. In this instance, the information is accessible online.

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