

[REDACTED]

From: FOI
Sent: 19 June 2023 13:31
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 067-23 - Response

Dear [REDACTED],

Our Ref: FOI-067-23

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 21 May 2023 and received by the Commission on 22 May 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.

Would you be so kind as to provide information on how many people voted, of those eligible to vote, in the May 2023 local elections?

Our response is as follows:

We hold some of the information you have requested.

The Commission is currently collecting data from Returning Officers on turnout at the May 2023. This data will be published on our [website](#) alongside our report on the elections in September 2023.

The data is therefore exempt under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 22 provides for an exemption where the information requested is intended for future publication. It is a qualified exemption which requires the Commission to consider the public interest. We understand that there is a legitimate public interest in the information you have requested; however, it is not in the public's interest to release partial data or an incomplete analysis of that data.

There is a clear need for the information requested to remain within our predetermined publication timetable, and as such we determine the exemption remains in favour of withholding the information.

The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority but in some circumstances we cannot responsibly release requested information, and we ask for your understanding in this regard.

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

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The Electoral Commission

electoralcommission.org.uk