[redacted]

**From:** FOI
**Sent:** 14 August 2023 10:07
**To:** [redacted]
**Subject:** FOI 095-23 - Response

Dear [redacted],

**Our Ref: FOI-095-23**

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 17 July 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.

*I am currently researching for an essay written in conjunction with a Western Australian Member of Parliament into how the use of plastics can be minimised in polling booths and election campaigns. This is a compulsory component of the final year of my undergraduate degree at the University of Western Australia. It must be apolitical, provide objective facts, and clear solutions to the issue. I am requesting any and all information as to how the Electoral Commission consumes and manages plastics during election campaigns. This may include, but is not limited to, the gross weight of plastics used in electoral items such as polling booths, the processes of plastic waste management, or any policies or objectives or action plans in relation to reductions of plastic usage. In addition, I understand that the Commission's objectives to 2022/23 to 2026/27 includes building a "sustainable" electoral system. I would like to ask how your current plastic consumption as well as your plans (if any) in plastic reduction align with that objective.*

**Our response is as follows:**

We do not hold information that is relevant to your request.

The UK Electoral Commission is responsible for the regulation of elections and provides support, advice and guidance to support the conduct of elections, however the delivery of elections is the responsibility of Returning Officers in Great Britain, who are appointed by every Local Authority (Council) and by the Electoral Officer of Northern Ireland.

The support and guidance information provided to the Returning Officers and Electoral Services Teams in Local Government does not include advice in relation to environmental impact, policies, or monitoring of the affects of polling on the environment.

The Electoral Commission does not hold information in relation to organisational plastic consumption, neither does it have a mechanism for monitoring plastic consumption in our offices.

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