[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 21 August 2023 10:49
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 100-23 - Response

Dear [redacted]

Our Ref: FOI-100-23

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 21 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.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request to know how many voters were turned away due to not having acceptable ID (under the fairly new voter ID laws) at the June 20th 2023 by-elections, by each constituency.

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested.

The Commission has been collecting data on the impact of voter ID at the by-elections on 20 July 2023 from local Returning Officers. We intend to publish that data, at a constituency level, in the autumn.

The information that you have requested 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.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption which requires the public interest test to be considered. We understand that there is a legitimate public interest in the information you have requested, and the need for transparency in relation to electoral events, specifically the publication of key statistical data; 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

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The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk