[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 24 November 2023 13:37
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 160-23 - Response
Attachments: FOI 028-22 - Request.pdf

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI 160-23

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 26 October 2023**.**

The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly and regrets that is has not done so within the statutory timeframe of twenty working days.

Your request is shown below followed by our response.

I wanted to ask for data, between 2019 and 2022, on

1. *Number of FOI requests received each year (let me know if this is already available)*

2. *Number of FOI requests labelled/defined as 'vexatious' each year*

3. *Copies of the requests that were defined as vexatious*

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested.

In response to questions 1 and 2 above, please note that our data on Freedom of Information (FOI) requests is recorded over each financial year (April to March) rather than by calendar year (January to December).

The table below gives the number of FOI requests received, and the number of requests considered to be vexatious, from the 2019-2020 financial year through to 2022-2023.

Financial Year	No. of FOI request received	No. of vexatious Requests
2019-2020	284	0
2020-2021	149	0
2021-2022	132	1
2022-2023	89	0

In response to question 3, please see the attached document – a copy of the vexatious request received in March 2022.

You will notice that certain personal details have been redacted. Section 40(2) provides for an exemption where the information requested constitutes personal data as defined by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA), and where release of the information would breach one of the data protection principles. Some of the information contained in the document falls within the description of personal data as defined by the DPA because the information relates directly to an identifiable living individual. This includes the name and email address of the requestor and the name of a junior staff member who would not reasonably expect their information to be released.

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

Information Officer
FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 23 March 2022 15:59
To: FOI
Subject: Freedom of information requests

Categories: Transferred to Skynet
SharePointLocationUrl: http://skynet/dm/Functions/IM/FOIDataSet/FOI-028-22/IM Correspondence
SharePointAbsoluteFileUrl: http://skynet/dm/Functions/IM/FOIDataSet/FOI-028-22/IM Correspondence/Freedom of information requests_1rcsqem6.msg

Hello

FOI 1
Is it possible for the EC to extract from its electronic databases a list of all applications for registration as a political party it has rejected for a specified period of time and to compile the same into an electronic folder/file containing all such application and their associated rejection decisions - yes or no

FOI2
Is it possible for the EC to extract from its electronic database a copy of each of the rejection letters or emails it has sent to unsuccessful applicants for registrations as a political party and compile such rejection letters in a separate electronic folder/file - yes or no

FOI3
Does the EC already have such folders/files composed of such extracted information as referred to in FOI1 & 2 as mentioned above yes or no

FOI4
Presuming that extraction referred to in FOI 1 and 2 is possible or such extraction already exists - and the published FOI response on your website which I reviewed at your suggested suggests the EC can do and has done the above – see FO1-036-21 - is it possible for the EC to search such folder or file using any of these words or phrases
- "discrimination" " discrimination" "equality" and "EqA" - yes or no.

FOI5
Presuming that it would be so possible to do such a word or phrase search as referred to in FOI 4 please may I have a list for the period since the Equality Act come into force in 1st October 2010 to the present day of all applications for registration as a political party for which one of the reasons or the only reason given for refusal was that in the opinion of the EC the relevant applicant would as a political party engaged in direct or indirect unlawful discrimination contrary to the Equality Act 2010.

Thanks

[redacted]

Sent from Mail for Windows