[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 07 December 2023 15:16
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 165-23 - Response

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI-165-23

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 12 November 2023 and received by the Commission on 13 November 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.

A list of the top five fines levied on UK political parties in 2021and a brief summary of the reasons why they were found against

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested.

The information that we hold relevant to your request is usually exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. Section 21 provides for an exemption where the information requested is reasonably accessible to the requester by other means.

We publish information about recently closed investigations every month here on our website. The information includes the possible offence(s) we investigated, what we found, and what action we took. The maximum monetary penalty we can impose is £20,000.

The information that you have requested is therefore reasonably accessible to you. However, as part of the Commissions duty to assist under Section 16 of the FOI Act, we have extracted below the five highest penalties applied during 2021:

Conservative and Unionist Party (GB) (registered political party)	**Failing to deliver accurate quarterly donation report; failing to keep accurate**	**Offence and contravention of a prescribed requirement. Penalties totalling £17,800**	**Sanctions were appropriate in this case, in line with our enforcement policy.**

	accounting records.	(£16,250 and £1,550 Variable Monetary Penalties). Paid on 29 December 2021.	
Renew (registered political party)	Late delivery of 2019 UK Parliamentary General Election campaign expenditure return.	Offence. £2,800 Variable Monetary Penalty. Paid on 8 December 2021.	A sanction was appropriate in this case, in line with our enforcement policy.
Best for Britain Limited (registered non-party campaigner)	Failure to deliver a complete campaign spending return for 2019 European Parliament election; Late delivery of weekly donations report for 2019 UK Parliamentary General Election.	Offences. Penalties totalling £3,000 (Variable Monetary Penalties of £2,000 and £1,000). Paid on 6 October 2021.	A sanction was appropriate in this case, in line with our enforcement policy.
Labour Together (members association)	Failure to deliver donation reports within 30 days of accepting donations, inaccurate	Offences. Penalties totalling £14,250 (Variable Monetary Penalties of	Sanctions were appropriate in this case, in line with our enforcement policy.

	reporting of donation, failing to appoint a responsible person within 30 days of accepting a donation.	**£14,000 and £250). Paid on 2 September 2021.**	
Labour Party (registered political party)	**Failure to deliver accurate quarterly donation reports.**	**Offences. Penalties totalling £1,820 (Variable Monetary Penalties of £400, £320, £360, £300 and £440). Paid on 1 September 2021.**	**Sanctions were appropriate in this case, in line with our enforcement policy.**

The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority 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