[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 13 December 2023 09:38
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 169-23 - Response
Attachments: South Holland FOI request.pdf; South Holland FOI request - Public Info correspondence.pdf

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI-169-23

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 15 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.

The local press has a story online regarding Mr Stephen Timewell and an Electoral Commission ruling on the recent South Holland District Byelection. I would like to request copies of all correspondence between the Electoral Commission and South Holland District Council or any other person, to or from. in respect of the by election of 9th November, St Pauls, Spalding.
I would like to request copies of all correspondence between the Electoral Commission and South Holland District Council or any other person, to or from, in respect of the election of 4th May 2023 for any ward of the election of councillors for South Holland District Council

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested. Please see the attached documents.

You will notice that certain personal details have been redacted from the information we are releasing. Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 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 requested would breach one of the data protection principles. Some of the information contained in the requested information falls within the description of personal data as defined by the DPA because the information relates directly to an identifiable living individual. This includes names and contact details of individuals in some instances. The individuals in some cases are junior staff members and they 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

FOI 169-23, due to FOI team 8 December 2023

The local press has a story online regarding Mr Stephen Timewell and an Electoral Commission ruling on the recent South Holland District Byelection. I would like to request copies of all correspondence between the Electoral Commission and South Holland District Council or any other person, to or from. in respect of the by election of 9th November, St Pauls, Spalding.

I would like to request copies of all correspondence between the Electoral Commission and South Holland District Council or any other person, to or from, in respect of the election of 4th May 2023 for any ward of the election of councillors for South Holland District Council

From: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@gmail.com <xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@gmail.com>
Sent: 26 March 2023 12:06 PM
To: Public Info <info@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Public Info <info@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: other

Submitted on 26 March 2023

Submitted values are:

Name

First name
xxxxxx

Last name
xxxxxxxx

Your email
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@gmail.com

Your telephone number
xxxxxxxxxxx

Your postcode
xxxxxxx

Your region/country
North East England

I am...
a member of the public

What are you contacting us about?

other

Your question
Where will my polling station be situated

From: xxxxxxxxxx
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 11:10 AM
To: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx <xxxxxxx@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx, Other, 27th March 2023

Please categorise as poll card, thanks M

From: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx <xxxxxxx@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 27 March 2023 9:58 AM
To: xxxxxxxxxx <xxxxxx@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx, Other, 27th March 2023

Dear xxxxxx,

Thank you for your call to the Electoral Commission

You'll get a poll card in the post before the local election in May. This will tell you where to vote. If you haven't got one, you should contact your local council. Contact details can be found below:

South Holland District Council
Electoral Registration Officer
Council offices
Priory Road
Spalding
PE11 2XE

Phone: 01775 761161
Email: elections@sholland.gov.uk
Website: http://www.sholland.gov.uk/

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Kind Regards,

xxxxxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

You now need photo ID to vote at a polling station at some elections. No ID? You can apply for free voter ID.

Find out more at electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID.

To help improve the service the Commission delivers, we would be grateful if you could provide feedback. Please find a short survey here

From: xxxxxxxxxxxxx@gmail.com <xxxxxxxxxxxxx@gmail.com>
Sent: 30 March 2023 6:04 PM
To: Public Info <info@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Public Info <info@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: other

Submitted on 30 March 2023

Submitted values are:

Name

First name
xxxx

Last name
xxxxxx

Your email
xxxxxxxxxxxxx@gmail.com

Your telephone number
xxxxxxxxxxx

Your postcode
xxxxxxxx

Your region/country
North East England

I am...
a member of the public

What are you contacting us about?
other

Your question
I have just move on 27 th march 2023

From: xxxxxxxxxx
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 10:16 AM
To: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx <xxxxxxx@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: xxxxxxxxxxx, Change of Address, 31st March 2023

Amends below, good to go, thanks, x

From: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx <xxxxxxx@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 31 March 2023 9:50 AM
To: xxxxxxxxxx <xxxxxx@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: xxxxxxxxxxx, Change of Address, 31st March 2023

Dear xxxx,

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission.

To change your address on the electoral register you will need to re-register at your new address. You can do this online using the UK Government's registration website.

Alternatively, some local authorities take registrations over the phone. If they do not take registrations over the phone, or you would prefer to register by returning a registration form, they will be able to send a form out to you. Contact details for your Electoral Registration Officer can be found below:

South Holland District Council
Electoral Registration Officer
Council offices
Priory Road
Spalding
PE11 2XE

Phone: 01775 761161
Email: elections@sholland.gov.uk
Website: http://www.sholland.gov.uk/

There are local elections in England on 4 May 2023. The deadline to register to vote in these elections is 11:59pm on Monday 17 April.

~~You may also wish to contact your former local authority, to let them know that you are no longer registered at that address, to ensure that you do not receive any further communications or voting material. To find their contact details, enter your old postcode on our website.~~

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Kind Regards,

xxxxxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

You now need photo ID to vote at a polling station at some elections. No ID? You can apply for free voter ID.

Find out more at electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID.

To help improve the service the Commission delivers, we would be grateful if you could provide feedback. Please find a short survey here

FOI 169-23

The local press has a story online regarding Mr Stephen Timewell and an Electoral Commission ruling on the recent South Holland District Byelection. I would like to request copies of all correspondence between the Electoral Commission and South Holland District Council or any other person, to or from. in respect of the by election of 9th November, St Pauls, Spalding.

From: Public Info <info@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:39 AM
To: infoengland <infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: FW: administration of elections

From: xxxxxxxxx@sholland.gov.uk <xxxxxxxxx@sholland.gov.uk>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:38 AM
To: Public Info <info@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Public Info <info@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: administration of elections

Submitted on 16 October 2023

Submitted values are:

Name

First name
xxxxx

Last name
xxxxxxxx

Your email

xxxxxxxxx@sholland.gov.uk

Your telephone number
xxxx xxxxxxxx

Your postcode
xxxx xxx

Your region/country
East Midlands

I am...
from a local authority

What are you contacting us about?
administration of elections

Your question
We have accepted a nomination form where a candidate's description is True Independent. We have been informed of our error and would like some guidance as how to go forward and correct this.

From: xxxxxxxxxxx <xxxxx@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:05 PM
To: xxxxxxxxxxx <xxxxx@electoralcommission.org.uk>; xxxxxxxxxxxxxx <xxxxxx@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: FW: administration of elections

Hi,

I think South Holland is yours? xxxxx has been in touch they need an answer for a 1pm meeting.

Best wishes

xxxxxxx

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

The Electoral Commission
xxxx xxx xxxx direct line
0333 103 1928 advice and guidance

infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: xxxxxxxxxxx
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:07 PM
To: xxxxxxxxxxx <xxxxx@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: administration of elections

Thanks xxxxxxx, I'll give xxx a call.

xxxxxxx

Information stored in CCM database in relation to the nomination error:

Case date: 16 October 2023

Case title: Incorrect description accepted on nominations paper

Detail: We have accepted a nomination form where a candidate's description is True Independent. We have been informed of our error and would like some guidance as how to go forward and correct this.

Response: Checked with xxxx in Guidance who confirmed that as the nomination paper was accepted and the SOPN has been published, South Holland can't go back and amend the description to 'Independent'. Called and spoke to xxxxxxx xxxxxx to let xxxxx know that the election proceeds as usual but advised that they may be challenged. Also confirmed that the description 'True Independent' needs to be used on the ballot paper etc as that what was accepted on the noms form.

Follow up action: Hi xxxxxxx

Thanks for clarification – presume also that his campaign literature can have 'True Independent' on also for the same reason?

xxxxxxx

Hi xxxxxxx,

Sorry for the delay in coming back to you. It wouldn't be for the Returning Officer to comment on or advise on campaign material, it is up to the candidate how he wishes to refer to himself.

Just in terms of managing any enquiries you may receive about this, if you haven't already done so, you might want to think about how you might manage letting the candidates know, including the candidate in question if he isn't aware of the error (particularly as it's been picked up already), and it may be worth having some lines to take prepared so that you are ready for any enquiries or questions you may receive (especially for any customer service staff who may be contacted by members of the public).

Do let me know if you need anything else from us in terms of support or advice.

Kind regards,

Xxxxxxx

From: xxxxxxxxxxxx<xxxxx@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 16 October 2023 13:05
To: xxxxxxxxxxxxx <xxxxxxx@sholland.gov.uk>
Subject: Incorrect description on nomination paper

Hi xxxxxxx,

Just following up on that last point, so yes 'True Independent' needs to be used on the ballot paper etc as that's what has been accepted. If you have any more questions please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,
xxxxxxx

xxxxxxxxxxx

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

The Electoral Commission
xxx xxxx xxxx
electoralcommission.org.uk

Advice and guidance line: 0333 103 1928
Advice and guidance email: infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk

From: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx <xxxxxxx@sholland.gov.uk>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 3:02 PM
To: xxxxxxxxxxxx <xxxxx@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Incorrect description on nomination paper

Hi xxxxxxx

Thanks for clarification – presume also that his campaign literature can have 'True Independent' on also for the same reason?

xxxxxxx

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx | xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx | **South Holland District Council**
DDI: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx / xxxxxxxxxxx
www.sholland.gov.uk



From: xxxxxxxxxxxx
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 5:07 PM
To: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx <xxxxxxx@sholland.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Incorrect description on nomination paper CCM:0552259

Hi xxxxxxx,

Sorry for the delay in coming back to you. It wouldn't be for the Returning Officer to comment on or advise on campaign material, it is up to the candidate how he wishes to refer to himself.

Just in terms of managing any enquiries you may receive about this, if you haven't already done so, you might want to think about how you might manage letting the candidates know, including the candidate in question if he isn't aware of the error (particularly as it's been picked up already), and it may be worth having some lines to take prepared so that you are ready for any enquiries or questions you may

receive (especially for any customer service staff who may be contacted by members of the public).

Do let me know if you need anything else from us in terms of support or advice.

Kind regards,
xxxxxxx

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

The Electoral Commission
xxxxxxxxxxxxx
electoralcommission.org.uk

Advice and guidance line: 0333 103 1928
Advice and guidance email: infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk

I would like to request copies of all correspondence between the Electoral Commission and South Holland District Council or any other person, to or from, in respect of the election of 4th May 2023 for any ward of the election of councillors for South Holland District Council

From: xxxxxxxxxxxxx <xxxxxx@sholland.gov.uk>
Sent: 21 February 2023 1:53 PM
To: xxxxxxxxxxxxx<xxxxx@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: 21st February 2023: Lincolnshire County Meeting

Hi xxxxxxx

Quick question – I spoke with xxxxx from the Blind Society and asked xxxxx what else we could do to make it easier for blind/partially sighted people to vote in a polling station – these were xxxxx suggestions:

- Large print ballot papers to be printed on bright yellow paper with bold Arial 16 font+ writing – I think I read somewhere that we can have extra copies printed so that they could, if needed, be taken into the booth to assist with voting;
- Magnifiers with lights – no problem with this and can sort but perhaps something we could flag with to be put in sundry packs instead of just a magnifier;
- I also mentioned to xxxxx that if someone was unable to enter the polling station that the PO could come outside to them with the ballot paper – obviously vote still secret etc and id shown – xxxxx asked if this could be made clear in the letter xxxxx is going to transcribe for us and sent to all registered blind in the area that would be very helpful.

Can you let me know if you are comfortable with the first and last points, please.

Thank you

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx | xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
South Holland District Council
DDI xxxxxxxxxxxx | Mobile xxxxxxxxxxxx
www.sholland.gov.uk



From: xxxxxxxxxxxx
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 3:28 PM
To: xxxxxxxxxxxxx <xxxxxx@sholland.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: 21st February 2023: Lincolnshire County Meeting CCM:0552980

Hi xxxxx,

Yes no problem with either the first or last points, on the first we cover this in our guidance on equipment and materials to be provided in the polling station, and on the last point we cover this in the Polling Station Handbook on page 30.

Best wishes,
xxxxxxx

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

The Electoral Commission
xxxxxxxxxxxxx
electoralcommission.org.uk

Advice and guidance line: 0333 103 1928
Advice and guidance email: infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk

From: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx <xxxxxxx@sholland.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 March 2023 11:41 AM
To: xxxxxxxxxxxx <xxxxx@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: xxxxxxxxxxxxx <xxxxxx@sholland.gov.uk>
Subject: Large Print Noms Papers

Good morning xxxxxxx

We have a prospective candidate with dyslexia who is struggling with deciphering things on the nomination forms.

We, along with the AEA, cannot see that any large print forms are available so just wanted to check what our options are. We can print out instructions in larger font to help him but are we able to enlarge a normal nomination paper to make it easier for him? He used to have software to make documents Arial 16 as that is what is recommended to him by professionals, but unfortunately doesn't have access to it now.

With the new Act in mind we are obviously very keen to help where we can.

xxxxxxx

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx | xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx | **South Holland District Council**
DDI: xxxxxxxxxxxx / xxxxxxxxxxxx
www.sholland.gov.uk



From: xxxxxxxxxxx
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 11:39 AM
To: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx <xxxxxxx@sholland.gov.uk>
Cc: xxxxxxxxxxxx <xxxxxx@sholland.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Large Print Noms Papers CCM:0552001

Dear xxxxxxx,

Many thanks for your email and my apologies for the delay in coming back to you, I wanted to check with colleagues in our Guidance team before replying.

There are restrictions as to what can be amended on the nomination form as is it prescribed. You could try to enlarge the font but you would need to be mindful of whether this may throw off the formatting of the form elsewhere which may then mean that the form is no longer deemed to be 'as prescribed'.

In our guidance for ROs we say the following: "Nomination papers can only be produced in English and not in any alternative languages or formats. However, you are required by law to prepare nomination papers for signature if someone requests. This means providing all of the documents required for nomination and completing them with all of the information given to you so that only the required signatures need to be added." – so providing assistance for the candidate in accordance with this may be a better option rather than attempting to enlarge the font on the form. If the candidate has an agent or not an independent candidate, the agent/party could also assist with completion of the nomination form.

Another route you could consider would be to provide an enlarged version for the candidate to read and familiarise themselves with, but advise that the standard-sized form should be the one completed, and advertise the informal check stage to reassure the candidate that it can be checked before submission. This would be similar to using an enlarged ballot paper for assistance in a polling station.

I hope that helps.

Kind regards,
xxxxxxx

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

The Electoral Commission
xxxxxxxxxxxxx
electoralcommission.org.uk

Advice and guidance line: 0333 103 1928
Advice and guidance email: infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk

Information stored in CCM database in relation to the election of 4th May 2023 for any ward of the election of councillors for South Holland District Council:

Case date: 23 March 2023

Case title: Unable to locate Sutton Bridge Deserves Better Party on the Commission's website

Detail: xxxxx unable to locate Sutton Bridge Deserves Better Party on the Commission's website.

Response: Located the party and talked xxxxx through the search I had used to do so. xxxxx then tried to replicate my search but said xxxxx still couldn't locate the party. Asked me to confirm registration of the party in writing -

Hello again

Thanks for your call.

The entry on the register of political parties for the Sutton Bridge Deserves Better Party can be accessed via the following link:

https://search.electoralcommission.org.uk/English/Registrations/PPm15272

Don't hesitate to call back if you need anything further.

Best wishes

Case Date: 27 March 2023

Case title: Commonly used name enquiry

Detail: Candidate with the name xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx is likely to request the commonly used name of xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx. xxxxxx wanted to talk through use of a commonly used name.

Response: Talked through commonly used name provisions. You can give advice at informal check stage - commonly used name should be one you commonly use and different from any other forename or surname you have. At formal delivery stage, you take information provided at face value - not for RO to concern themselves with whether the name is one that the candidate is commonly known as or whether it is different from other names etc. Looking at the full surname and possible commonly used surname that you have mentioned, it would fulfil the requirement of being a name that is different from any other name the individual has.

Phone us if you need, as and when the paper comes in.

Case date: 3 April 2023

Case title: Promoting Commission webinar and surgeries to candidates and agents

Detail: Hi – thank you for your help previously.

Firstly – no commonly used name was used in the nomination paper today!

Also another question – I want to share the candidate and agent webinar and surgeries with our candidates – is there an easy link I can email them – I know its in the bulletin but wondered whether you had anything that I could put in an email to them.

Do they need to book a place?

Response: Morning xxxxxx

Thanks for your email and for letting me know how it turned out re the commonly used name query!

Looking at bulletin 352, in which we have most recently mentioned the candidate and agent webinar and surgeries, the intention is that you copy and paste the text in inverted commas about the webinar and put it in an email to your candidates/agents. I see though, that we haven't provided text in the same way for the surgeries which you could copy and paste into an email. I think you can fairly easily deal with that, by copying and pasting the text in the bulletin about the surgeries into an email and replace 'we/our' etc with 'the Electoral Commission'.

Electoral Administration Bulletin-352-England | Electoral Commission

Candidates and agents do need to book in advance for both the webinar and surgeries. If you have a look at the booking link that we provide in the bulletin for the webinar and also for the surgeries, it will take the candidate to a landing page on the Commission's site, which gives a bit of contextual information about each of the events.

I hope this guides you. My colleague xxxxxxxxxxxxx (copied into this email), who is the booking contact for the webinar and surgeries and referenced in the bulletin text, is very helpful and will deal with any questions arising from candidates and agents about the events. Therefore if you can simply send the information about the events to your candidates and agents, xxxxxx will then become the contact point and take you out of the loop, so to speak.

Case date: 13 April 2023

Case title: Inspection of nominations including certificate of authorisation

Detail: xxxxxx rang to check if the certificate of authorisation was open to inspection?

Response: Hi xxxxxx

The Principal Area Rules only mention the following documents:

- The nomination papers and the consents to nomination (under Rule 11)
- (On a more limited basis) the home address forms (under Rule 11A)

The guidance says that the nomination papers available for inspection should include the nomination form, consent to nomination, any agent appointment form and any emblem request application.

'Should' is a key word – indicating best practice rather than a legal requirement. Rule 11 refers to inspection of 'nomination papers' and 'consents to nomination' with the home address form being dealt with separately in rule 11A. The Commission has taken a view that items such as the agent appointment form and emblem request application form part of the 'nomination papers' referenced in rule 11. Having spoken to my colleagues in our guidance team, the certificate of authorisation has not intentionally been omitted– the RO may also consider this item to be part of the 'nomination papers' and make that available for inspection too.

I hope this helps, sorry it's taken so long.

Best wishes

xxxxxxx

Case date: 14 April 2023

Case Title: Inspection of uncontested election noms papers

Detail: xxxxxx wanted to confirm if the same rules applied to uncontested election noms papers and whether to allow an inspection.

Response: I raised it with the guidance team and confirmed that our guidance nor the legislation covers this entirely but in the vie of transparency we would advise that the nomination papers will be made available to allow inspection until the day before what would have been polling day.

Case date: 19 April 2023

Case Title: Lines to take in response to FOI requests for voter authority cert application numbers

Detail: Hi - i can't seem to find the suggested response to the recent FOI's regarding VAC's - please can you point me in the right direction. Thanks

Response: Hello xxxxxx

Thanks for your email.

It wasn't the Commission who produced a suggested response. I think you should try the AEA to see if it was them! I also recall seeing an email where xxxxxxxx at Coventry was producing lines for West Midlands authorities based on some advice xxxxx had received from DLUHC. I imagine that might have been in xxxxx role as a xxxx xxxxxxxxxxxx, so I wonder if xxxxxxxxxxxx as your East Midlands xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx could help?

Case date: 26 April 2023

Case Title: Proxy will not have their valid ID in time, what to do?

Detail: Proxy will not have their valid ID in time, what to do?

Response: *Discussed with Guidance, proxy fest*

Hi xxxxxx,

Thank you for the call earlier this afternoon, my apologies for the delay in getting back to you. In answer to your query where the elector believes that their passport will not arrive in time for the election, they can apply for an emergency proxy on grounds relating to voter identification and appoint a proxy. This is because "an elector or proxy applied for a form of accepted photographic ID including a Voter Authority Certificate or Anonymous Elector's Document in the 3 months before the deadline and immediately before the deadline it has not arrived, and they have not been refused or withdrawn their application"

The 2 electors they were a regular proxy for would be able to apply for an emergency proxy on grounds relating to voter identification and nominate a different proxy. This is because "an elector or proxy applied for a form of accepted photographic ID including a Voter Authority Certificate or Anonymous Elector's Document in the 3 months before the deadline and immediately before the deadline it has not arrived, and they have not been refused or withdrawn their application"

Our guidance on emergency proxy on grounds relating to voter identification can be found here (https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/running-electoral-registration-england/voter-authority-certificates-and-anonymous-electors-documents/emergency-proxy-grounds-relating-voter-identification) on our website.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Regards,

xxxxxxxxx

Case date: 27 April 2023

Case Title: Can we share the number of VAC applications received?

Detail: Many thanks for this.

I have one further question not related to the previous one – can you confirm that we are not allowed to share the number of VAC's that we have received or is this down to RO discretion.

ta

Response: Hi xxxxxx,

Thank you for your email, I hope your day is coming along well.

I presume you mean the number of VAC applications you have received. If so, it is at the RO's discretion if they would like to share the number of VAC applications received.

If you are asked data collected on the VIDEF/BPRL we have produced some guidance which can be found here (https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-07/Publication%20of%20data%20from%20polling%20stations.pdf)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Regards,

xxxxxxxxx

Case date: 4 May 2023

Case Title: VAC and temporary VAC

Detail: ERO has asked; the person applied for a VAC but provided a bad quality of picture. ERO try to contact the elector with no success. Now the elector in question is contacted the ERO wanting to vote. Can they issue temporary VAC under the circumstances.

Response: The process to follow has been confirmed by xxx

The ERO has not rejected the VAC application - Advised xxxxx to take following steps

1.They will need to get a acceptable format of picture upload it to the government portal.

2.They need to confirm that application accepted and sent to print by the portal before 5 pm tonight

3. They issue a temporary VAC on the basis of the VAC will not sent to the elector on time.