[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 18 December 2023 08:02
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 172-23 - Response

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI-172-23

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 20 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.

How much did each political party in NI receive in public money from February 1st 2022 and November 1st 2023? Please provide a breakdown.

What is the total amount of money each political party has in its reserve? Please provide a breakdown.

How much money does each political party receive from outside Northern Ireland, excluding the Republic of Ireland? Please provide a breakdown.

How much money does each political party receive from the Republic of Ireland? Please provide a breakdown.

Our response is as follows:

The information that we hold is in the public domain. We publish all information reported to us by registered political parties about donations, income and expenditure on our website. This information is exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 21 provides for an exemption where the information requested is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. The information that you have requested is accessible to you as set out below.

How much did each political party in NI receive in public money from February 1st 2022 and November 1st 2023? Please provide a breakdown.

You can search for this information here. If you click on 'search filters' (towards the bottom of the page) you can select the relevant search criteria, including time period and public funds under donor status. To ensure you are looking only at parties on the Northern Ireland register you need to tick the relevant box. Donations reported as accepted between 1 July 2023 and 30 September 2023 will be published on our website in December 2023. Reportable donations accepted by parties between 1 October 2023 and 31 December 2023 are only required to be reported to us by 30 January 2024.

What is the total amount of money each political party has in its reserve? Please provide a breakdown.

This information is available in parties' annual statement of accounts**.** You can search for this information here. If you click on 'search filters' (towards the bottom of the page) you can select the relevant search criteria, including time period. To ensure you are looking only at parties on the Northern Ireland register you need to tick the relevant box. Please note that accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023 are not due to be submitted to us until either 30 April 2024 or 7 July 2024 depending on each party's level of income and expenditure.

How much money does each political party receive from outside Northern Ireland, excluding the Republic of Ireland? Please provide a breakdown.

Northern Ireland political parties are only permitted to accept donations over £500 from permissible UK and Irish sources. You can find details of permissible donors here and you can search for reported donations from UK sources here .

Donations of £500 or less are not legally defined as donations and are outside the scope of the Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). Income of amounts of £500 or less should be included in parties accounts. You can search for parties accounts here. If you click on 'search filters' (towards the bottom of the page) you can select the relevant search criteria, including time period. To ensure you are looking only at parties on the Northern Ireland register you need to tick the relevant box.

How much money does each political party receive from the Republic of Ireland? Please provide a breakdown.

You can search for this information here. If you click on 'search filters' (towards the bottom of the page) you can select the relevant search criteria, including time period and 'is Irish Source yes/no'. To ensure you are looking only at parties on the Northern Ireland register you need to tick the relevant box.

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

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FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk