The Electoral Commission

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[redacted]

03 July 2023

Dear [redacted]

Our Ref: FOI 081-23

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

Your website shows new applications for parties and listings for existing parties. It shows some details such as party names and the people involved in the party. It does not show a party website address or more details about an actual party's policies.

The scope of this FoI is to ask what details such as a party's website details for a new party or a proposed one, are available to the general public and how may they be accessed using your services.

Our response is as follows:

We hold some of the information you have requested.

When a political party applies for registration, they must provide the Electoral Commission with the following:

- a completed application form
- the party's constitution
- the party's financial scheme
- a declaration and/or record of the party's assets and liabilities
- a non-refundable fee of £150

The application form (found on our website) does ask for a website address, but it is not mandatory information and we do not hold this information for every registered party. A party constitution must set out the structure and organisation of the party, and as part of this, we would expect a party to outline their aims and objectives. This may include

information on a party's policies, but further details should otherwise be requested from the party directly.

A party's application details are published on our website for public comment. We make available the party's proposed names, descriptions and emblems (where applicable) as these are the aspects where public comment may assist us in our consideration.

Where the Commission grants an application to register a political party, section 28(8) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) sets out that the Commission must include certain information on the party's entry on the register.

The details that we are required to publish are a party's registered name or names; the names of registered officers of the party; the party's headquarters address; the names, addresses and officer names of any accounting units registered by the party; and where relevant, an assets and liabilities declaration or record.

PPERA does not require the Commission, or any party in question, to make further information or documents available for public access.

However, anyone can request information that we hold (or that they believe we hold), which we have not already made available publicly, through our Freedom of Information (FOI) process. On this basis, although we do not routinely publish information such as a party website or constitution, we may disclose them if requested under FOI.

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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