From: FOI
Sent: 18 July 2023 14:22
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 082-23 - Response
Attachments: RE_ Q1 2023 donations press materials_Redacted.pdf; Holiday handover_Redacted.pdf; Q1 2023 donations and loans LTT extract_Redacted.pdf; RE_ Permissibility check of political party donor_Redacted.pdf

Dear [redacted]

Our Ref: FOI 082-23

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.

You have asked for the following information:
This is a request for information under Freedom of Information legislation in relation to Mr Amit Lohia, who recently donated £2m to the Conservative Party.
I would like to request the following information:
1. Copies of any internal Electoral Commission correspondence and communications that mention Amit Lohia from March 1 2023 to the date this request was received.

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested. We are disclosing to you, internal communications which mention Mr Lohia as requested. These relate to the confirmation that he was a permissible donor at the time his donation to the party was received.

Exemption under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000:
You will notice that certain personal details have been redacted from the documents 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.
We have also redacted some material which related to separate matters outside the scope of your request.

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 Team
FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From:
To:
Cc:
Subject: "s holiday handover
Date: 02 June 2023 17:27:23
Attachments:

Hi and .

Q1 2023 publication

I emailed today, the manager of the , and I gained a positive permissibility check of the one remaining Conservative Party donor from Q1 2023, so we have a full house:

EC Reference	Donor name	Value	Received date	Accepted date	Permissible
C0567841	Amit Lohia,	£2,000,000.00	29/03/2023	29/03/2023	Y

All this information has been passed to in the press team.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

See you in a couple of weeks

Kind regards,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

Q1 2023 donations and loans LTT

Publication date: Thursday 8 June 2023

Media relations leads: [redacted]

Are these very large Conservative Party donations permissible?

Yes. The donations from Mohamed Younes Mansour Lotfy Mansour of £5,000,000; from Amit Lohia of £2,000,000 and Graham H Edwards of £2,000,000 were all permissible.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Permissibility check of political party donor
Date: 02 June 2023 15:44:18

Thank you [redacted].
It's good to know that is out of the way before publication day.
Have a lovely weekend.
All the best,
[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]
Sent: 02 June 2023 14:57
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Permissibility check of political party donor

Hi [redacted]
Confirmation as requested (below)!
All the best
[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 02 June 2023 2:43 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Permissibility check of political party donor

Hi [redacted]
I can confirm Amit Lohia has been registered to vote at [redacted] since the end of 2020.
Kind regards
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2023 2:18 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Permissibility check of political party donor

Hi [redacted]
Long time no speak! Hope you're well.
I wonder if you could help us with something. We are publishing our first quarterly report of political party donors next week and are currently unable to check the permissibility of a donor to the Conservative and Unionist Party. Apparently it's for

a substantial donation, which may generate some queries when it is published. We don't appear to have your latest register so could you check if the following person was on the register as of 29 March 2023 please. The details are:
Amit Lohia
[redacted]
If you could let me know as soon as possible that would be great.
In the meantime have a fantastic weekend!
All the best
[redacted]
The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

****
[redacted]
This e-mail may contain information which is confidential, legally privileged and/or copyright protected. This e-mail is intended for the addressee only. If you receive this in error, please contact the sender and delete the material from your computer.
****

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: RE: Q1 2023 donations press materials
Date: 02 June 2023 15:46:44

Good afternoon [redacted].

I have just had confirmation that Amit Lohia, EC reference C0567841 is permissible.

The local authority confirmed he was on electoral register on the day the donation was received and accepted by the Conservative and Unionist Party

Kind regards,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]
Sent: 31 May 2023 11:10
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Q1 2023 donations press materials

Hi [redacted],

Thanks so much for these, good to know for when we go out with the press materials.

In the LTT, we just have a couple of comments/questions on clarifications on some points relating to the flagged parties. Do let me know if you or [redacted] could take a look at these? Happy to talk through any of it.

Thanks so much,
[redacted]

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 8:52 AM
To: [redacted]

[redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Q1 2023 donations press materials

Hi [redacted], good to see you yesterday in the office.

Just a reminder that the addresses of the individuals are not for disclosure to anyone outside the Commission, as they are covered by privacy legislation.

The addresses won't be published, but they show up in the tables as I pulled the unpublished data from PEF Online.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]
Sent: 30 May 2023 09:57
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Q1 2023 donations press materials

Hi [redacted].

The figures have been input into the Press Releases and the LTT document.

Some items that are of interest in this quarter.

The Conservative and Unionist Party

They had a number of very large donations in Q1 2023:

EC Reference	Donor name	Value	Received date	Accepted date	Permissible
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]			
	Amit Lohia, [redacted]				[redacted]

C0567841	[redacted]	£2,000,000.00	29/03/2023	29/03/2023	
[redacted]		[redacted]			

We have been able to check permissibility of two of these donations.
Amit Lohia address is [redacted], and we don't have any recent register updates from the local authority (LA). At present we have been unable to determine permissibility for this donor.
We are in the process of contacting the LA to acquire the register updates we need.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
	[redacted]				

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

If you have any further questions or want more information, do get in touch.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]

Sent: 17 May 2023 10:00
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Q1 2023 donations press materials

Hi [redacted],

I hope your week is going well.

Please find the UK and NI Q1 donations press materials below, ready to have the figures inputted.

UK press release: Q1 2023 donations PR - UK.docx

NI press release: Q1 2023 donations PR - NI.docx

LTT: Q1 2023 donations and loans LTT.docx

Just to let you know we are working to the 24th May as the first review slot, so it would be great to have these by then. Do let me know if you have any questions at all!

Best wishes,
[redacted]

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk