[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 14 February 2024 09:12
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 012-24 - Response
Attachments: FOI 012-24 election data.xlsb

Dear [redacted]

Our Ref: FOI-012-24

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 27 January 2024 and received by the Commission on 29 January 2024.

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.

We are seeking information related to voter turnout, with a focus on the comparative data of postal voting versus in-person voting. Our specific interests include general elections, referendums, and local elections.

To provide further clarity, we are requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:
1. Comparative data on voter turnout for postal voting and in-person voting in the last five General Elections.
2. Comparative data on voter turnout for postal voting and in-person voting in the last twelve local elections.
3. Comparative data on voter turnout for postal voting and in-person voting in the last twelve referendums.

Additionally, we would like to extend our timeframe for analysis to cover the last twelve years for local elections and referendums and the last five General Elections.

We are also interested in any studies or analyses conducted by the Electoral Commission or other relevant authorities regarding the impact of voter ID laws on postal voting and in-person voting.

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested.

The attached spreadsheet contains data on both the number and proportion of people voting in person and by post for the elections specified. Figures for in person and postal voting include all the ballots cast / returned including those later rejected / not counted.

The Commission's assessment of the impact of voter ID requirements at the 2023 local elections in England can be found on our website.

Providing you with a link to the published report is in keeping with section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which states that we do not need to repeat information in our response if it is accessible elsewhere.

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.

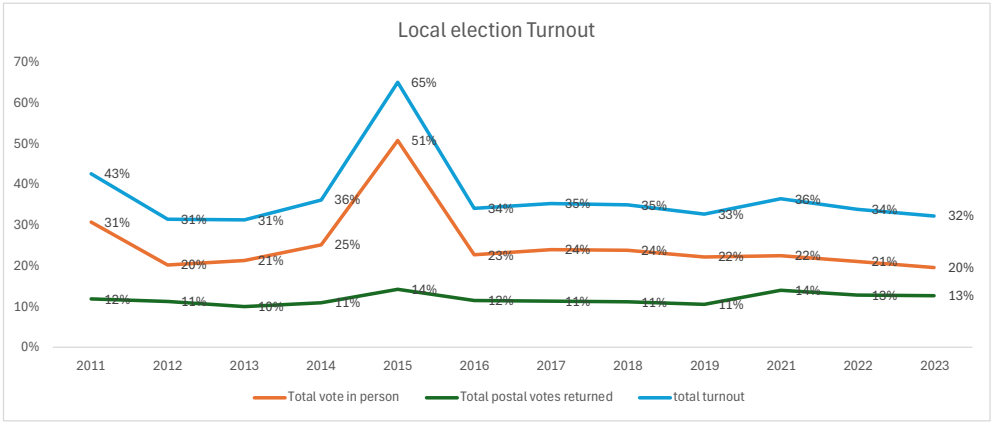
Please also note that if you have exhausted all internal Commission review procedures and you are still not satisfied you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner. Details of this procedure can be found on the ICO website: https://ico.org.uk/.

Yours sincerely

Information Officer
FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk

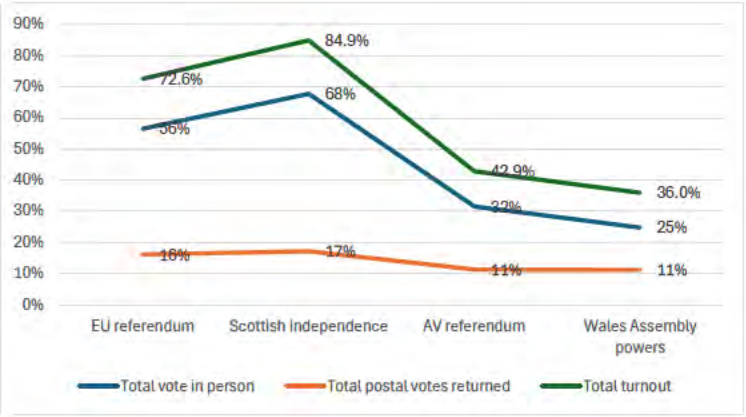
The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

Local elections	Total vote in person	Total postal votes returnec	total turnout
2011	31%	12%	42.7%
2012	20%	11%	31.5%
2013	21%	10%	31.3%
2014	25%	11%	36.2%
2015	51%	14%	65.2%
2016	23%	12%	34.2%
2017	24%	11%	35.4%
2018	24%	11%	35.0%
2019	22%	11%	32.8%
2021	22%	14%	36.5%
2022	21%	13%	34.0%
2023	20%	13%	32.3%



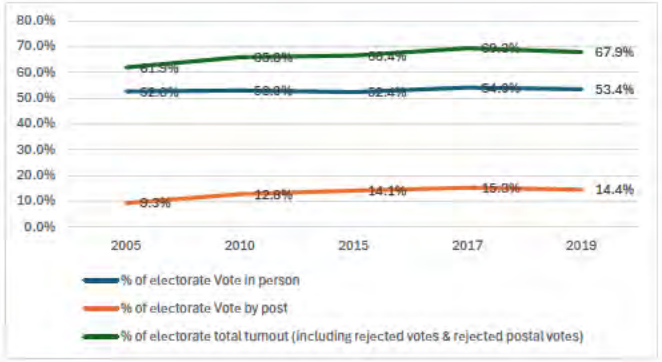
	Electorate	Total vote i	Total postal votes returned
2011	29500444	9083676	3504194
2012	15912614	3219599	1791301
2013	18421929	3926120	1840269
2014	22158462	5589994	2432272
2015	30244564	15391027	4315810
2016	15718815	3567974	1809816
2017	18403310	4423817	2088932
2018	21,476,493	5121275	2,392,080
2019	27927182	6202508	2956929
2021	32786008	7374733	4588838
2022	22376330	4723209	2877511
2023	27326110	5348749	3475288

	Total vote in person	Total postal votes returned	Total turnout
EU referendum	56%	16%	72.6%
Scottish independence	68%	17%	84.9%
AV referendum	32%	11%	42.9%
Wales Assembly powers	25%	11%	36.0%



	Electorate	Total vote in person	Total postal votes returned
EU referendum	46500001	26268822	7475912
Scottish independence	4283938	2901121	737137
AV referendum	45684501	14418252	5173171
Wales Assembly powers	2,289,044	567,379	256,522

	% of electorate Vote in person	% of electorate Vote by post	% of electorate total turnout (including rejected votes & rejected postal votes)
2005	52.6%	9.3%	61.9%
2010	53.0%	12.8%	65.8%
2015	52.4%	14.1%	66.4%
2017	54.0%	15.3%	69.3%
2019	53.4%	14.4%	67.9%



	Electorate	In person votes	Total postal votes received
2005	44245939	23269756	4110039
2010	45597461	24172618	5818853
2015	46354197	24283936	6516228
2017	46835433	25308339	7155315
2019	47567752	25413541	6866494