[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 21 July 2023 13:19
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 091-23 - Response
Attachments: Electoral Commission briefing Voter Identification Regulations 2022 .msg_Redacted.pdf; Invitation Electoral Commission briefing 22.02.msg_Redacted.pdf; RE FW Declaration to the Commission info.msg_Redacted.pdf

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI 091-23

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 04 July 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 Liz Truss. I would like to request the following information:
1. Copies of any and all correspondence and communications between the Electoral Commission and Liz Truss (or 'the Office of Liz Truss') from 1 October 2022 to the date this request was received.
2. Copies of any internal Electoral Commission correspondence and communications that mentions 'Liz Truss' or 'the Office of Liz Truss' from 1 October 2022 to the date this request was received.
***I am happy for you to confine the search to electronic-only sources*.**

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested.

Please find attached two emails sent to Liz Truss's office by our public affairs team, and email correspondence between Liz Truss's office our regulatory support team.

In addition, we found a number of internal emails, summarising the day's news which reference Liz Truss. These emails all summarise news stories already in the public domain and contained no addition commentary or information. We have considered these to be out of scope but would be happy to provide these if required.

Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 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 document falls within this description of personal data because it relates

directly to an identifiable living individual. This includes names and contact details of individuals in some instances. Additionally, in some cases the individuals 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 Team
FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 03 November 2022 17:42
To: elizabeth.truss.mp@parliament.uk
Subject: Electoral Commission briefing: Voter Identification Regulations 2022

Dear Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP,

Parliamentary briefing: Voter Identification Regulations 2022

Ahead of Commons consideration of the Voter Identification Regulations 2022, please find a briefing from the Electoral Commission.

This briefing sets out key considerations on the implementation of the voter ID requirement introduced by the Elections Act 2022. The measure will come in to force in the first instance for the May 2023 local elections.

If you have any questions about the content of this briefing, or the Commission's work, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Senior Communications Officer (Public Affairs)

The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 03 February 2023 11:38
To: elizabeth.truss.mp@parliament.uk
Subject: Invitation: Electoral Commission briefing 22.02

Dear Elizabeth Truss,

In light of changes introduced in the Elections Act, the Electoral Commission will be in Parliament to answer questions about our work to prepare voters, campaigners and electoral administrators for the May elections.

We would like to invite you to a short briefing, followed by a Q&A, which will take place at **1pm on Wednesday 22 February in Room W1**. The briefing will include further information on our work to raise public awareness of the voter ID requirement and the changes to support for disabled people in polling stations.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Senior Communications Officer (Public Affairs)

The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 16 February 2023 09:11
To: [redacted]
Cc: elizabeth.truss.mp@parliament.uk
Subject: RE: FW: Declaration to the Commission info

Hi [redacted],

The Members part of a Members Association refers to membership of a political party, rather than the entity itself.

Generally with a company we look at the directors and if the majority are members of a political party we consider that to be a Members Association.

The reporting obligations only relate to donations received for political activities, which as we have previously stated, include contributions given for work on promoting policies within the party and for seeking internal office. Note that this list is not exhaustive.

We would be happy to discuss further or consider any information which you might wish to provide in relation to the company. It might be that at this point there are no reportable donations or that you wish us to look further at the matter of it being a Members Association.

We write companies involving party members as early as possible to ensure that they are aware of the rules and that there is no accidental breach because company officers were unaware of their obligations, and not because we believe a breach has occurred.

If I can assist further, please do get in touch.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Regulatory Support Manager

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]
Sent: 13 February 2023 3:54 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: elizabeth.truss.mp@parliament.uk
Subject: RE: FW: Declaration to the Commission info

Dear [redacted],

[redacted] is away and passed this on to me.

There are indeed 2 Directors - but only one of them (Ms Truss) is a Member, as listed on page 5 of the Companies House document.

Thanks,

[redacted]
Private Secretary to Rt Hon Liz Truss MP
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 10 February 2023 15:27
To: TRUSS, Elizabeth <elizabeth.truss.mp@parliament.uk>
Subject: RE: Declaration to the Commission info

Hi [redacted],

My apologies for the delay in responding. The Companies House entry shows it as having two members, Ms Truss and another director.

As a Members Association, the entity is subject to both permissibility and reporting requirements. Donations or loans over the value of £500, will need to be checked to ensure they are from a permissible source. Permissibility checks must be carried out within 30 days of receipt of the donation. You must not enter a loan with an impermissible source.

The list of permissible sources is the same as for political parties and I have therefore included that link below:

Who can you accept donations and loans from? | Electoral Commission

Donations and loans over the sum of £7,500 must be reported to us within 30 days of acceptance or in the case of a loan within 30 days of entering into the loan. Impermissible donations must also be reported to us.

The donations/loans must be for political activities. If they are not for political activities they do not need to be reported by the association. Generally this covers donations/loans for things such as work on promoting or developing policies for adoption by a party or given for the purposes of promoting candidates for internal office. Permissible donations are reported using this form, and loans here. Impermissible donations can be reported using this form.

If the Members Association has a donation or has entered a loan and are unsure whether it is within the definition please do get in touch with us, similarly if anything is unclear please come back to me for more information.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Regulatory Support Manager

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: TRUSS, Elizabeth <elizabeth.truss.mp@parliament.uk>
Sent: 06 February 2023 5:12 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Declaration to the Commission info

Good afternoon,

The Office of Liz Truss Ltd is a company with only 1 member: Liz Truss. Please advise on the reporting requirements?

Best wishes,

[redacted] **| Parliamentary Assistant**
Office of the Rt. Hon Liz Truss MP
Member of Parliament for South West Norfolk
www.elizabethtruss.com



The information you have provided will be used by the Office of Elizabeth Truss MP. Elizabeth Truss is the controller for this data, and may use it for the purposes of assisting with the matter you have raised. The information will be processed in accordance with our privacy policy, which can be viewed here: https://www.elizabethtruss.com/privacy

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From: TRUSS, Elizabeth <elizabeth.truss.mp@parliament.uk>
Sent: 06 February 2023 13:56
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Declaration to the Commission info

From: [redacted] >
Sent: 06 February 2023 13:50
To: TRUSS, Elizabeth <elizabeth.truss.mp@parliament.uk>
Subject: RE: Declaration to the Commission info

Hi [redacted]

Further to my previous email, we note that Ms Truss has set up a company The office of Liz Truss Ltd. We are uncertain of the nature of the company but a company can be a Members Association

that is required to report to us. A Members Association is simply an entity that is made up wholly or mainly of members of a political party.

Members Associations can only accept donations and loans of over £500 from permissible sources (mainly UK Based) and are required to report donations they receive over the sum of £7,500 to the Electoral Commission, using this form, Form RD1A - Reporting a donation or a visit (electoralcommission.org.uk)

It is only required to report donations if they are for political activities, political activities for Members Associations include things such as promoting or developing policies for adoption by a party or promoting candidates for internal office within the party. Our guidance in relation to these organisations can be found here.

We would appreciate confirmation as to whether the company is a Members association and as such whether it will need to report donations received to us. We are of course happy to provide further advice if you are unsure and need to provide us with further information.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Regulatory Support Manager

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]
Sent: 27 January 2023 2:07 PM
To: TRUSS, Elizabeth <elizabeth.truss.mp@parliament.uk>
Subject: RE: Declaration to the Commission info

Hi [redacted],

When you receive a donation or enter into a loan with/from a permissible source and you report it to the RMFI, they forward that information on to us and we publish it. You do not need to report it to us a second time. It is sufficient to have reported it to them.

If the donation or loan is from an impermissible source, then you must report this directly to us. Forms are available on our website here.

Our guidance for MPs can be found here. If you have questions around how to check permissibility or whether something is within the rules that we regulate, you are always welcome to contact us. There are times when the RMFI will advise you to get in touch to clarify something. If there is a specific donation/loan that you require advice on, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

There are other entities, such as Members Associations that do report directly to us and in some instances this is done by an MP. Again if you think you need to report on behalf of a Members Association I can provide further advice.

If you have any further queries please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Regulatory Support Manager

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: TRUSS, Elizabeth <elizabeth.truss.mp@parliament.uk>
Sent: 26 January 2023 12:10 PM
To: PEF Inbox <PEFInbox@electoralcommissionorguk.onmicrosoft.com>
Subject: Declaration to the Commission info

Good afternoon,
My name is [redacted] and I'm the Parliamentary Assistant to the Liz Truss MP.
I'm writing today to enquire about sending declarations to the Commission. I've never done so before, so wanted to check is it simply a case of emailing this address with something similar to what we send to the House of Commons Registrar? An example (which I'm obviously happy to copy as it is publicly available) is below:

Name of donor: _____
Address of donor: private
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £20,000 to support my Conservative Party leadership campaign
Date received: 18 July 2022
Date accepted: 18 July 2022
Donor status: individual
(Registered 12 August 2022)

Would I just send something similar to the above, but include the address of the individual rather than writing 'private'?

Best wishes,
[redacted] **| Parliamentary Assistant**
Office of the Rt. Hon Liz Truss MP
Member of Parliament for South West Norfolk
www.elizabethtruss.com