[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 13 March 2024 09:21
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 019-24 - Response

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI-019-24

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 5 February 2024.

The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly and has done so within the statutory timeframe.

Your request is shown below followed by our response.

Please provide me with the total number of votes cast (as opposed to % turnouts) at elections since 1980, together with the number of spoiled votes at the same elections.

On the 15 February, in response to an email from the Commission, you provided the following clarification of your request:

I'd be grateful for information as far back as you hold records. Please could you advise where I might seek earlier information from?

I would like information related only to UK Parliamentary general elections and UK-wide elections.

In addition to the total votes cast at each, I would be interested to see a break-down of all votes that were rejected together with those considered deliberately 'spoiled', if you have that information.

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested.

Data on UK parliamentary general elections since 1918 is available from this sheet. Figures on total votes cast appear on tab 3 (GE results UK & GB) and data on rejected ballots is available on tab 7 (Rejected ballots).

There have been two UK wide referendums since the Electoral Commission was set up in 2000. The data for both is set out below.

	Parliamentary voting system (2011)	**EU membership (2016)**

Total votes cast	19,285,751	33,577,342
Total rejected ballots	120,021	25,359
Want of official mark	242	232
Voting more than once	7,855	9,085
Writing by which voter could be identified	2,853	836
Unmarked or void	109,071	15,207

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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The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk