[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 22 March 2024 14:41
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 025-24 - Response
Attachments: Organisational Intelligence Report - Turning Point_Redacted.pdf; 2019-11-25-Turning-Point-UK_Redacted.pdf; Extract from Campaign Monitoring Circular 20190108.pdf; Extract from Daily Monitoring Circular 20200213.pdf; Extract from Daily Monitoring Circular 20201009.pdf; Organisational Intelligence Report - The Bow Group_Redacted.pdf

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI-025-24

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 23 February 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.

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

- *Details and minutes of any meetings concerning Turning Point UK*

- *Any correspondence which discusses Turning Point UK*

- *Correspondence with Turning Point UK*

The above queries concern the conservative activist group Turning Point UK, not the health and social care charity Turning Point.

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested.

We are releasing to you all that we hold that is relevant to your request. Please see the attached documents.

You will notice that certain details have been redacted. Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act provides for an exemption from release where the information requested constitutes personal data, as defined by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA), and where release of the information would breach one of the data protection principles. Some of the information contained in the documents falls within the description of personal data as defined by the DPA because it relates directly to an identifiable living individual. This includes names and contact details of individuals, who

in some instances are junior staff members who 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 Officer
FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

Turning Point UK

Organisation summary

Definition – *Student movement for free markets, limited government, personal responsibility & duty to others* (source).

Website: www.tpointuk.co.uk

Twitter: @TPointUK

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TPointUK, 43,632 likes, 55,150 followers (28/11/2019)

Instagram: www.instagram.com/tpointuk, 5,624 followers (28/11/2019)

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmbm72l60p3OH4aL4o7BFeA 34,9K followers

Address: [redacted]D

Phone no.: [redacted]

Email address(es): info@tpointuk.co.uk , [redacted]

Tested intelligence

- Turning Point UK does not appear on Companies House (28/11/2019)
- Turning Point UK does not appear on the Charity Commission Register (28/9/2019).
- 25/11/2019 [redacted] wrote to Turning Point UK about the rules for non-party campaigners
- Turning Point UK has not registered with the Commission (28/11/2019).
- Turning Point UK spent £25,208 on 26 Facebook ads between October 2018 and 29 March 2020 (according to the Facebook Ad Library Report). It also appears as the disclaimer for Reason: common sense for the common good page with a spending of £1,195 on 8 ads in the same period.
- Turning Point UK accepts donations via Patreon and Paypal and sells merchandise with slogans (28/11/2019).



---------- Original Message ----------
From: [redacted]
Received: 25/11/2019 16:29
To: Turning Point UK
Subject: Important information from the Electoral Commission CCM:0336912

To whom it may concern,

It has come to our attention that Turning Point UK may be engaging in political campaigning. This being the case, I am writing to provide information that may be relevant to your organisation.

Organisations that campaign during elections but do not stand candidates are known as non-party campaigners (NPC). There are certain rules relating to campaign spending and the receipt of donations in line with that campaign activity, which must be adhered to by NPC's.

I have attached a guidance document outlining these rules and the instances in which they apply. This information should help to determine whether your activity is regulated and if so, how to comply with the regulations.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
020 7271 [redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

Nigel Farage

Nigel Farage wants to bring Turning Point USA to the UK

The Washington Examiner reports that the former leader of UKIP Nigel Farage has revealed he wants to bring the conservative, Trump-supporting Turning Point USA (TPUSA) to this country. In a recent interview with the Examiner, Mr Farage said he had been working with TPUSA founder Charlie Kirk to make Turning Point UK a reality. "I'm looking forward to Turning Point UK opening … I'm going to go speak at the events in the UK and try and get this thing moving on the other side of the pond. It's real. It's happening". Mr Farage said that he is excited about the energy of the movement and believes it can overcome what he calls the "brainwashing of our youth"

Click here for more information

Right-wing activist group spends thousands attacking Rebecca Long Bailey on Facebook

12.02.2020

Labour List reports on a Facebook advertising campaign which is attacking the Labour leadership candidate, Rebecca Long Bailey. Turning Point UK has spent £7,000 in a week on an ad asking "Do we want more of this" alongside clips of Ms Long Bailey defending the outgoing leader Jeremy Corbyn. The ad claims that "Britain does not need a Jeremy Corbyn 2.0". The advert also features untrue claims that Mr Corbyn "accepted cash from HAMAS and supports ISIS" and is overwhelmingly targeted at young, male Labour supporter. Momentum has since

posted a response video arguing that Turning Point UK "are trying to stop Labour being a voice for left-wing ideas" but some other Labour members claim that the advert is an attempt to "equate (Corbyn) with RLB to actually solidify her vote (i.e. (make people think) if the right wing don't like her, she must be good)"

Click here for more information

Facebook removes hundreds of fake profiles tied to pro-Trump group

08.10.2020

Facebook has removed hundreds of fake profiles linked to conservative group Turning Point USA, the Guardian reports. The group were, according to Facebook, carrying out 'organized attacks' to influence public conversation on the site. The platform has removed 276 accounts across Facebook and Instagram, which were flooding news articles with 'pro-Trump comments and misinformation'. The accounts, which were co-ordinated by Arizona-based communications company Rally Forge on behalf of Turning Point UK, were posting comments on news articles from the Washington Post, Fox News, MSNBC, CNN and the New York Times. The comments addressed topics such as "Covid-19, criticism of the Democratic party and presidential candidate Joe Biden, and praise of President Trump and the Republican party". Although Rally Forge has been removed from the site as a result of the investigation, Turning Point USA remains active, raising questions and criticisms of Facebook's approach. The conservative group has insisted that the allegations are related to an affiliated entity, Turning Point Action, but Facebook have insisted that both companies are linked to the operation. The article concludes by recognising President Trump's links to the group, with both him and his son, Donald Trump Jr, having delivered speeches at Turning Point USA events.

Click here to find out more.

Last updated: 17.12.2021

The Bow Group

Overview

- The Bow Group is the UK's oldest conservative think tank, founded in 1951
- Although often associated with the Conservative Party, the group is now perhaps better categorised as a right-wing think tank. The Bow Group exists to publish and promote the research and policy proposals of its members, through policy papers, policy briefs and larger collaborative projects.
- The group's journal, Crossbow, usually published four times a year, and the group's programme of meetings during the parliamentary year also provide its members and guest speakers and writers with a forum for political debate.

> *"Politics will lead you down many paths, but a conservative and a patriot will never be far from the Bow Group. Against the tide of liberalism, globalism and Marxism, the Bow Group stands resolute For 70 years The Bow Group stands were Conservatism begins and ends in Britain, there is nowhere else line it.*
>
> *Ben Harris-Quinney, Bow Group Chairman*

Key contact details

Website: https://www.bowgroup.org

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/thebowgroup - Created July 2011
9856 likes, 10,127 followers

Twitter: @bowgroup – Joined November 2009 – 15,700 followers

YouTube: TheBowGroup – Joined July 2010 – 31,435 views

Instagram: None on record

LinkedIn: the-bow-group

Phone no.: 07875 570 898 (source)

Address: 71-75 Shelton Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2H 9JQ (source)

Email: office@bowgroup.org

Key spending data

Date	Facebook	Google	Snapchat
[redacted]			

Information confirmed by the Commission

Registration details

- The Bow Group registered with the EC during the EU referendum campaign as a permitted participant on the 13.04.16. The responsible person is Hector Marchetti.

Donation information

- The group has donated £30,375.00 to the Conservative Party between November 2001 and December 2007
- Membership of the group is £40 and you can apply through their website.

Companies House/Charities Register

- The Bow Group is not registered with Companies House or Charities Register

Links & Associations

The Bow Group's website highlights a large number of partner organisations: [redacted] the lighter links are the actual webpage for the different organisations)

[redacted]

[redacted]	[redacted]	Turning Point UK
[redacted]	[redacted]	
[redacted]		[redacted]
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