From: FOI
Sent: 06 September 2024 16:34
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 107-24 - Response

Categories: Transferred to Skynet

Dear [redacted]

Our Ref: FOI 107-24

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 22/07/2024.

The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly and regrets it has not done so within the statutory timeframe of twenty working days.

Your request is in bold below followed by our response.

Dear Electoral Commission, I'm writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) to ask that you please disclose to me a full list of investigation decisions against political parties, and one for unincorporated associations, dating back to 2010.

I'd like, if possible, the outcome, relevant party, dates, and costs of fines attributed to each please.

Our response is as follows:

We hold some of the information you have requested.

Section 21 of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 exempts from disclosure information which is reasonably accessible to the requestor by other means.

Information we hold from 2019 onwards can be found in our response here: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/2024-08/101-24%20Response_Redacted.pdf.

Older information is not easily accessible due to its age, and it is not located centrally.

The Commission has a duty to assist under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) to provide advice and assistance to those requesting information.

You can use the National Archive who capture website at points of time in the past to access this information. This can be found at https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/timeline/https:/www.electoralcommission.org.uk/ using the following instructions:

- 2010, 2011 - Visit the Home Page. Click ‘Party Finance’, then ‘Enforcement’, then see links for contemporaneous news about cases.

- 2012 - Visit the Home Page. Click ‘Party Finance’, then ‘Enforcement’, then ‘Sanctions’, then look under ‘Sanctions We Have Imposed’.

- 2013 - Visit the Home Page. Click ‘Party Finance’, then ‘Enforcement’, then find ‘Information About Cases’.

- 2014, 2015 - Visit the Home Page. Click ‘Our Work’, ‘Roles and responsibilities’, ‘Our role as a regulator’, then ‘Sanctions’.

- 2016, 2017 and 2018 - Visit the Home Page. Click ‘Our Work’, ‘Roles and responsibilities’, ‘Our role as a regulator’, then ‘Enforcement’, then scroll down to ‘Closed cases’.

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: 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