From: FOI
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 055-25 - Response
Date: 18 July 2025 17:01:45
Attachments: 2024-07-09 Vijay Rangarajan to Nigel Farage MP_Redacted.pdf
2025-04-25 - Imprints Team to Nigel Farage MP.pdf

Dear [redacted]

Our Ref: FOI 055-25

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 21 May 2025. On 16 June we emailed you to extend your request.

The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly and has done so within the extended time frame.

Your request is in bold below followed by our response.
Under the Freedom of Information act. Please provide the following records: All correspondence by Nigel Farage, MP, and the Electoral Commission between July 4, 2024 and May 21 2025.

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested.

Please find attached a copy of a letter from Vijay Rangarajan, the Commission's Chief Executive, to Nigel Farage. 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. One redaction has been made, we have redacted Vijays signature from the bottom of this document.

However, in respect of other correspondence the Commission has determined that the requested information is exempt from disclosure under section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We have explained the exemption and set out detail on our considerations below.

Exemption: section 31(1)(g) and section 31(2)(c)

The information that you have requested is exempt from disclosure under s.31(1)(g) and section 31(2)(c) of FOIA. Section 31(1)(g) exempts information from disclosure where that disclosure "would or would be likely to, prejudice…the exercise by any public authority of its functions for any of the purposes specified in subsection (2)."

In this case, the relevant purpose in subsection 31(2) is 31(2)(c) which is "the purpose of ascertaining whether circumstances which would justify regulatory action in pursuance of any enactment exist or may arise…".

Public interest test
Section 31 is a qualified exemption which means that we must consider whether the public interest in applying the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. There are a number of factors that are weighed in the balance to consider whether the public interest in applying the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. The factors that we have considered are laid out below.

Public interest in favour of disclosure
The Commission recognises that there is a general public interest in promoting transparency and accountability for decisions made by a public body, and in understanding the reasons for the decision taken.

There is also a public interest in the Commission carrying out inquiries as part of its regulatory powers in an open and transparent way.
Making available the requested information would increase public trust in how the Commission makes fully informed, reasoned decisions.

Public interest against disclosure

So that it can make regulatory decisions based on a firm factual basis, the Commission needs to be able to carry out inquiries as part of its regulatory powers and gather such evidence and facts on a confidential basis

To enable it to carry out effective inquiries, the Commission depends on being able to secure the co-operation from third parties. That co-operation is essential to the Commission's ability to meet its statutory functions. Releasing the information could prevent exchange of relevant information in the future and have the effect of hindering future inquiries.

Third parties have a reasonable expectation that information provided in the course of the Commissions inquiries would not be made available to the public at large. If information provided during the Commissions inquiries was released, it would make third parties reluctant to co-operate and may prejudice interactions with them as well as others in the future.

We therefore judge the public interest in withholding the information to outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information.

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

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Nigel Farage
House of Commons
London
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9 July 2024

Dear Nigel Farage,

Congratulations on your re-election as Member of Parliament. I am writing to set out how the Electoral Commission can support you in your new role.

First, I wanted to reflect on the campaign. For the most part, it was a robust and vibrant campaign, but as you regrettably experienced, there were instances of unacceptable abuse and intimidation of candidates. I wanted to express how sorry I am that you had to deal with this. It has no place in our democracy. We worked with the Jo Cox Foundation and Police to put in place guidance and resources, as far as possible, but clearly more needs to be done.

We are currently working to gather evidence on the experiences of candidates at this election, including on intimidation, so that we can make recommendations for improvements for future elections. Should you find it useful, I would welcome a meeting with you to discuss your experiences, the work of the Commission in this area, and what more can be done.

If you would prefer, you can also share your experiences as a candidate through our 15 minute survey.

Our support for you

As you may know, the Electoral Commission is the independent body which oversees elections and regulates political finance in the UK. We work to promote public confidence in the democratic process and ensure its integrity. We are accountable to the UK Parliament through the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission.

There are a number of ways we will support you over the course of your time in Parliament.

- **Following electoral law –** the first is to help you navigate the complexities of electoral law, including your political finance obligations. These are a crucial part of ensuring our electoral system remains transparent and maintains public confidence, and we provide support and guidance for you and your staff to make it as easy as possible to meet them.

- **Supporting parliamentary debate –** we provide information on matters relating to elections. We will share briefings with you and your team when these issues are

debated in the Commons, or when legislative changes are introduced. We are always happy to discuss the issues, and set out the evidence we have.

- **Responding to constituents –** if constituents contact you with questions about the electoral process, we are always happy to provide a helpful response.

- **Supporting democratic engagement –** we provide a range of resources on democracy which you might find useful in your constituency. You can use these on social media or in print to drive engagement in democracy, including ahead of upcoming elections. We also produce resources for young people and schools, and can support you with school visits to see this in action.

If you ever need to contact us about our work or for advice, you can do so via parliamentary@electoralcommission.org.uk or by calling our Public Affairs team on 0207 271 0601.

You can also find out more about our work with the UK Parliament on our website: electoralcommission.org.uk/parliament

Learning from this election

As with all elections, there will likely be lessons to learn from the general election. We are conducting a full analysis, based on evidence we are gathering such as from candidates, and will report with recommendations in due course.

Following the general election, we have a statutory obligation to lay a Corporate Plan before Parliament, setting out our priorities for the course of the Parliament and how we will meet our responsibilities. We would welcome your input as we develop the plan.

The Electoral Commission team and I look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely.



Vijay Rangarajan
Chief Executive

Outlook

The Electoral Commission - Nigel Farage - Imprint Guidance - 25/04/2025

From Imprints <Imprints@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Date Fri 2025-04-25 09:48
To info@nfarage.co.uk <info@nfarage.co.uk>; nigel.farage.mp@parliament.uk <nigel.farage.mp@parliament.uk>

Dear Nigel

We have recently received a report through our website of a missing digital imprint on your page on X.

Upon review we saw that you do not have a digital imprint on either your election related posts, or on your profile.

The law on digital imprints is complex and we understand that not all campaigners will be familiar with how it applies to certain material.

Digital imprints are essential to provide transparency to voters, as they help clarify who is responsible for the digital content they see.

Next steps
You should:

- **Avoid publishing any further digital election material without an imprint**.
- **Add an imprint** to any existing material if possible - this may involve editing the original post or updating your profile information.

Our full guidance regarding how relevant entities can comply with imprint requirements can be found on our imprints guidance page and in the meantime have set out some further specific advice below the email signature.

We recognise that these laws can be difficult to apply in practice, so we are available to proactively support you to comply with the law. If you need any further information or have specific examples relevant to your campaign, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Imprints Team
imprints@electoralcommission.org.uk

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

What material requires a digital imprint?
An elected official is a relevant entity which means it is someone who must include a digital imprint on any digital election material.

The content you have posted promoting Reform UK in the local elections is election material and so must include an imprint.

Where must the imprint appear?

The imprint must be included as a part of the material, unless it is not reasonably practicable to do so. In that case it must appear somewhere directly accessible from the material. In practice, this means it can be reached via a direct link, usually one click or equivalent.

For Social Media

To make sure your imprint is included in the correct place you can either:

- add an imprint directly to each piece of digital election material you publish.
- include the imprint on your social media profile or other digital channels where you share election material. This means that the imprint will be directly accessible from any of your election-related content.

We have produced specific guidance for digital imprints on social media sites which can be found here.

For Websites

Where digital material is a website, it will usually be reasonably practicable to include the imprint on the relevant webpage. A common approach is to display the digital imprint in the footer. We have produced specific guidance for digital imprints on websites which can be found here.

What does a compliant digital imprint look like?

A digital imprint on either a paid advert or organic material must include the name and address of:

- the promoter
- any person on behalf of whom the material is being published (and who is not the promoter)

For example:

- ‘Promoted by [organisation/name], on behalf of Nigel Farage, both of [address].
- If you are publishing on your own behalf, it can be simplified to: ‘Promoted by Nigel Farage, of [address].’

Please refer to our guidance here or reach out for more tailored assistance.

Paid adverts

You should also note that any paid adverts which are political material require an imprint.