

From: FOI

Sent: 21 March 2017 12:56

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FOI 23/16 Cost of Conservative Party investigation

Dear [REDACTED]

Our Ref: FOI 23/17

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated **16 March 2017** received by the Commission on **17 March 2017**.

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 in bold below followed by our response.

You have requested:

How much did the investigation into the conservativ's party's fraud cost, and in addition to the fine, is the Conservative party liable for meeting this cost?

Our response is as follows:

We do not hold the information you have requested.

The Commission does not operate a time recording system for staff in the Political Finance and Regulation directorate. As such, no specific record exists of the cost of the Commission's investigation into the Conservative and Unionist Party's 2015 UK Parliamentary General Election campaign spending return.

We can confirm that the investigation commenced on 15 February 2016, and was concluded on 13 March 2017. During the course of the investigation a number of investigators worked on the case, and some staff were at times redeployed form other work to assist. Internal and external legal costs were also incurred.

The Conservative and Unionist Party is not liable for meeting any of these costs, and the fines, when paid, will be returned to the Consolidated Fund, managed by HM Treasury, and not the Electoral Commission.

I trust that this information satisfies your request. The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority.

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:

<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information-requests/how-do-i-make-an-foi-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:

<http://www.ico.gov.uk>

Yours sincerely

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