

Caitlin Lindenberg

From: FOI
Sent: 23 February 2016 14:07
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 09/16 - Electoral Roll by Ethnicity

Dear [REDACTED]

Our Ref: FOI 09/16

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 dated 29th January 2016.

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:

- 1) Please provide details of the breakdown of electoral roll registration by ethnicity, with a particular focus on Gypsy/Traveller ethnic groups.**
- 2) Please provide details of under-represented ethnic groups on the electoral register.**
- 3) Please provide all schemes or initiatives taken by the electoral commission to engage Gypsy/Traveller groups and encourage them into the voting process.**

Our response is as follows:

- 1) The Commission does not hold data on the number of people on the electoral register by ethnic group. This is because the registers do not hold this data and an elector is not required to give their ethnicity when registering.
- 2) The Commission has carried out several research projects in recent years looking at the quality of the electoral registers and how levels of registration varying by different socio-demographic factors including ethnicity. All these reports can be found here:
<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/our-work/our-research/electoral-registration-research>.

The most detailed assessment of ethnicity is included in our report based on an analysis of census data here:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/169890/Electoral-Commission-Census-2011.pdf

- 3) In November 2014 our Director of Communications, Alex Robertson, gave a speech to the Travellers Movement National Conference, encouraging members of the community to hold events for National Voter Registration Day and share a link to the online registration site. We then provided the organisation with materials to support and promote our wider public awareness campaign for the general election with the traveller community.

Also in the run-up to the May 2015 general election we worked with The Travellers Movement to reach out to traveller, gypsy and Roma communities. This included developing a [factsheet](#) about participation to help ensure as many people in this group were reached as possible.

We are running a public awareness campaign ahead of the elections in May 2016 and we have again shared resources with The Travellers Movement and encouraged them to use these resources to promote voter registration to members of their communities.

I trust that this information satisfies your request. The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority, but in some circumstances we cannot responsibly release requested information, and we ask for your understanding in this regard.

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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