

[REDACTED]

From: FOI
Sent: 25 July 2016 16:07
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: FOI 120/16 - Spend on voter registration

Dear [REDACTED]

Our Ref: FOI 120/16

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act dated 28th June 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. How much funding was:

- a) budgeted for;**
- b) allocated to;**
- c) spent by;**

the Electoral Commission in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14, (v) 2014-15 and (vi) to date in 2015-16 on democratic participation - in particular voter registration?

2. And, of such funding (in no. 1) that was budgeted by the Electoral Commission, how much was allocated to each local authority in the same time period (see 1(i)-(iv)) for democratic participation - in particular voter registration?

3. How many:

- a) electors aged over 18;**
- b) electors aged under 18;**

were confirmed on the electoral register on (i) 1 December 2014, (ii) 1 February 2015, (iii) 9 February 2015, (iv) 7 May 2015, (v) 1 December 2015, (vi) 31 January 2016, (vii) 8 February 2016, (viii) 5 May 2016 and (ix) 10 June 2016.

4. How many applications to register to vote were received between 30 May 2016 and 9 June 2016, and, of that number, how many such applicants were already registered to vote (i.e. 'duplicate' applicants) in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales?

I would like the above information to be provided to me as electronic copies, either within Excel spreadsheets, Word tables or PDF files as long as the data is clear to understand. If this request is too wide or unclear, I would be grateful if you could contact me as I understand that under the Act, you are required to advise and assist requesters. If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct me to it, with page references and URL addresses if necessary.

If you are unable to find all of the above, kindly restrict the request to questions 1 and 3 (as above):

1. How much funding was:

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the Electoral Commission in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14, (v) 2014-15 and (vi) to date in 2015-16 on democratic participation - in particular voter registration?
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Our response is as follows:

QUESTION 1

Ahead of any major poll we submit a proposal to the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission for funding to run public awareness activity. The allocation of funds we receive is our total budget for the campaign, so I have included these in the same column of the below table.

The information below is displayed by campaign rather than financial year since the spending on most of our campaigns crosses financial years, so this gives a clearer indication of what we are spending money on than a single figure for a financial year.

Campaign Budget/allocation		Spend
2010 UK Parliamentary election	£2,700,000	£2,700,000
Referendum on law-making powers for the Welsh Assembly (March 2011)	£1,100,000	£1,050,000
2011 Northern Ireland Assembly, Welsh Assembly, Scottish Parliament, Mayor of London, London Assembly and local elections, and the referendum on the Parliamentary voting system (May)	£6,150,000*	£6,150,000*
2012 local, Mayor of London and London Assembly elections (May)	£4,100,000	£4,100,000
2012 Police and Crime Commissioner elections in England and Wales (November)	£3,700,000	£3,650,000
2013 local elections (May)	£1,200,000	£1,200,000
2013 Northern Ireland canvass (autumn)	£620,000	£610,000
2013 Scottish canvass (pre-referendum: 1 October 2013 – 10 March 2014)	£102,000	£97,000
2014 European Parliamentary and local elections (May)	£2,515,000	£1,900,000
Scottish independence referendum (September 2014)	£1,650,000*	£1,530,000*
Individual electoral registration (IER) campaign (summer 2014)	£3,900,000	£3,620,000
2014/2015 Partnership Marketing Activity	£411,000	£410,000
2015 UK Parliamentary election	£3,230,000	£3,195,000
Scotland 16/17 year old franchise campaign (summer 2015)	£125,000	£125,000
2016 Police and Crime Commissioner	£3,860,000*	£3,729,000*

Northern Ireland Assembly, Welsh Assembly, Scottish Parliament, Mayor of London, London Assembly and local elections (May)		
EU referendum (June 2016) £6,355,000*		£5,830,000* [final cost TBC]

*cost includes door-drop of a public information booklet in some areas

QUESTION 2

The Commission does not provide funding to local authorities and as such we do not hold information on their funding.

Grants to local authorities from central government are set by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), with the Cabinet Office providing additional funding to some local authorities for promoting voter registration.

If you would like to submit an FOI request you can do so at the following:

DCLG: dclqkia@icasework.fcos.gsi.gov.uk

Cabinet Office: foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

QUESTION 3

Data on the number of registered electors is collated in December of each year following the annual canvass. These figures are the official electoral statistics and are collected and published by the Office for National Statistics. The Commission also collects and publish electoral data following major polls.

The data requested is not available for the following dates: 1 February 2015, 9 February 2015, 31 January 2016, 8 February 2016, 5 May 2016, 10 June 2016.

The number of electors on the electoral registers in Great Britain in December 2014 and December 2015 is available on the website of the Office for National Statistics at the following:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/elections/electoralregistration/datasets/electoralstatisticsforuk>

The number of registered electors in the UK in May 2015 is available on our website:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/excel_doc/0007/190465/IER-May-2015-electoral-registers-data.xlsx

While the age of electors is not included on electoral registers, both data sources include the number of attainers on the registers: electors who become eligible to vote during the lifetime of the register. In England, Northern Ireland and Wales this refers to electors who will turn 18 during the lifetime of the register.

In Scotland this definition applies to data from May 2015 or before. For any electoral register data from after May 2015 the definition of attainers differs in Scotland due to the extension of the franchise to include 16 and 17 year olds in local government and Scottish Parliament elections. For more information see the notes in the spreadsheet for any of the above datasets.

We are currently collecting electoral data for the May 2016 elections which we will be making this available on our website later in the summer. The number of electors at the EU referendum is available on our website:

<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/find-information-by-subject/elections-and-referendums/upcoming-elections-and-referendums/eu-referendum/electorate-and-count-information>

QUESTION 4

From 30 May 2016 to 9 June 2016 there were 1,781,172 applications to register to vote submitted to local authorities in Great Britain. We do not know the number of applications submitted in Northern Ireland.

We are currently collecting electoral data for the EU referendum which will be available in our report on the conduct of the EU referendum, due to be published in September.

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

Jo Crofton-Diggins
Information Manager

The Electoral Commission

3 Bunhill Row

London EC1Y 8YZ

Tel: 020 7271 [REDACTED]

Fax: 020 7271 0528

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Putting voters first

From: FOI

Sent: 30 June 2016 13:22

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FOI 120/16 - Spend on voter registration

Dear [REDACTED]

Our Ref: FOI 120/16

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act dated 28th June 2016, concerning:

1. How much funding was:

- a) budgeted for;
- b) allocated to;
- c) spent by;

the Electoral Commission in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14, (v) 2014-15 and (iv) to date in 2015-16 on democratic participation - in particular voter registration?

2. And, of such funding (in no. 1) that was budgeted by the Electoral Commission, how much was allocated to each local authority in the same time period (see 1(i)-(iv)) for democratic participation - in particular voter registration?

3. How many:

- a) electors aged over 18;
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were confirmed on the electoral register on (i) 1 December 2014, (ii) 1 February 2015, (iii) 9 February 2015, (iv) 7 May 2015, (v) 1 December 2015, (vi) 31 January 2016, (vii) 8 February 2016, (viii) 5 May 2016 and (ix) 10 June 2016.

4. How many applications to register to vote were received between 30 May 2016 and 9 June 2016, and, of that number, how many such applicants were already registered to vote (i.e. 'duplicate' applicants) in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales?

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The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly and within the statutory timeframe of twenty working days.

You may expect to receive a reply sent from the Commission by 26th July 2016

Yours sincerely

Jo Crofton-Diggins
Information Manager

The Electoral Commission

3 Bunhill Row

London EC1Y 8YZ

Tel: 020 7271 [REDACTED]

Fax: 020 7271 0528

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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Putting voters first

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 28 June 2016 15:12

To: FOI

Subject: Information on electors and voter registration

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I ask you kindly to send me details of:

1. How much funding was:

- a) budgeted for;
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- c) spent by;

the Electoral Commission in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14, (v) 2014-15 and (iv) to date in 2015-16 on democratic participation - in particular voter registration?

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If the release of any of this information is prohibited on the grounds of breach of confidence, I ask that you supply me with copies of the confidentiality agreement and remind you that information should not be treated as confidential if such an agreement has not been signed. I also understand that you are required to respond to my request promptly, and in any case within 20 working days. I would be grateful if you could confirm in writing that you have received this request. I can be contacted via, email at [REDACTED] or telephone on [REDACTED] I would prefer email, however, please use the method that is best suited for the request.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

Kind Regards,





Research Assistant

ClearView Research Ltd

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