

Dear [REDACTED]

Our Ref: FOI 121/16

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 dated **insert date received**

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:

Documents relating to the suspension of national campaigning in the EU Referendum by the designated lead campaigners in the period 16-18 June 2016, including:

- **Any correspondence between the Commission and the lead campaigners**
- **Any correspondence between the Commission and any government department and**
- **Any internal documents**

Our response is as follows:

We hold information related to your request.

Following the murder of Jo Cox MP, a number of referendum campaigners announced a temporary suspension of their campaigning activities. The suspension came about as a result of a voluntary mark of respect made by campaigners, rather than a change in the rules that we are responsible for regulating.

The Electoral Commission does hold an internal document related to your request. An internal email responding to public queries about the temporary suspension of national campaigning following the murder of Jo Cox MP.

The Electoral Commission did not correspond with either the designated lead campaigners or any government department about the temporary suspension of national campaigning during the EU Referendum.

Some of the information contained in these documents contains personal data, such as direct contact information of staff members and the names and contact details of junior staff members, which is exempt under Section 40 of the FOI Act. These documents have been redacted prior to release. Further explanation of the exemption is provided below.

Section 40(2) and (3)(a)(i) of the FOI Act

Section 40 (2) provides for an exemption where the information requested constitutes personal data, some of which is sensitive personal data, as defined by the Data Protection Act (DPA), and where release of the information requested would breach one of the data protection principles. Some of the information we hold within the description of personal data as defined by section 1 of the DPA because the information relates directly to an identifiable living individual.

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

NAME

POSITION

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