

## Caitlin Lindenberg

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**From:** FOI  
**Sent:** 05 August 2016 09:49  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FOI 128/16 - Ex Pat Citizens

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Our Ref: FOI 128/16**

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 dated 12 July 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:

**Can you please tell me how many ex-pat British citizens living abroad were denied their opportunity to vote in the recent EU referendum due to not receiving their ballot paperwork in time?**

**This includes those who received their ballot papers too late for them to return them in time and complaints received that they did not receive their ballot papers at all including complaints made after the referendum.**

**This follows news media reports that errors were made in processing the paperwork in time but the number involved I have been unable to ascertain.**

**Could you also please tell me how many ex-pat citizens registered to vote in time for the EU referendum?**

**I believe there are approximately 5.5 million ex-pats living abroad. Can you finally please tell me how many of them were eligible to vote under the 15 year rule?**

Our response is as follows:

The Commission does not hold any data on the number of overseas voters who did not receive their postal vote in time.

The Commission is currently collecting data on the number of overseas electors that were added to the registers in the run up to the poll. This data will be available in September and will be published on our website. In December 2015 there were just over 100,000 overseas voters registered.

The Commission does not hold any data on either the total number of ex-pat British citizens living abroad or the number that qualify as eligible to vote in the UK under the 15 year rule.

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

**Vanessa Asante**  
**Information Officer**

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