

Caitlin Lindenberg

From: FOI
Sent: 07 March 2016 11:25
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 17/16 - Grassroots Out application

Dear [REDACTED],

Our Ref: FOI 17/16

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 dated 25 February 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:

We would be grateful if you could let us have the names and addresses of the people who have applied to create this political party (Grassroots Out).

Our response is as follows:

We do hold information in relation to your request. The Commission is currently processing the Grassroots Out application to register a political party in Great Britain. However, this information is considered exempt under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Applicants who lodge an application with the Commission have an expectation that particular details contained in their application will be published when they apply (the party name and other identifiers) or when their application is granted and their party is registered (the names of party officers and the party headquarters address). There is also information that they would expect will not be made public at any stage (the home addresses of party officers, personal contact information).

Our published guidance 'Process of Registering a Political Party' outlines the process.

At this stage the party has not been registered by the Commission and the applicants would not therefore expect their names or addresses to be made public.

Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act provides for an exemption where the information requested constitutes personal data as defined by the Data Protection Act 2000 (DPA), and where release of the information requested would breach one of the data protection principles. The requested information falls within the description of personal data as defined by section 1 of the DPA because the information relates directly to an identifiable living individual.

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 the application is successful and the party name is registered the officers names and headquarters address is published.

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

Paul O'Malley
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www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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