

Caitlin Lindenberg

From: FOI
Sent: 27 April 2016 17:46
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 42/16 - Electoral fraud, corruption and malpractice

Dear [REDACTED]

Our Ref: FOI 42/16

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 dated 27th April 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:

Please can you inform me how many complaints you have received in the last two years in relation to electoral fraud, corruption and malpractice.

Our response is as follows.

Electoral fraud offences relating to elections in the UK are specified in the Representation of the People Act (RPA) 1983, which you can access online at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1983/2/contents>.

The UK's territorial police forces are responsible for investigating allegations relating to electoral fraud offences under the RPA 1983. Every police force in the UK has an identified Single Point of Contact officer (or SPOC) for electoral fraud, who provides specialist support and advice to investigators.

Prosecuting authorities (the Crown Prosecution Service in England and Wales, the Crown Office in Scotland, and the Public Prosecution Service in Northern Ireland) are responsible for taking cases of alleged electoral fraud to court. They work closely with police forces to examine evidence about alleged electoral fraud before deciding whether or not to bring a prosecution.

The Electoral Commission does not investigate complaints or allegations about electoral fraud. We do, however, collect, analyse and publish data from police forces about cases of alleged electoral fraud in the UK each year. The data and analysis reports for 2015 and 2014, which cover the period specified in your request, are available on our website at the following links:

- Our analysis of allegations of electoral fraud in 2015 at http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/198533/Fraud-allegations-data-report-2015.pdf
- Police data on electoral fraud in 2015 at http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/excel_doc/0003/198534/2015-Cases-of-alleged-electoral-fraud.xlsx

- Our analysis of allegations of electoral fraud in 2014 at <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/find-information-by-subject/electoral-fraud/data-and-analysis/?a=183448>
- Police data on electoral fraud in 2015 at <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/find-information-by-subject/electoral-fraud/data-and-analysis/?a=190174>

I trust that this information satisfies your request.

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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www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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