

## Caitlin Lindenberg

---

**From:** FOI  
**Sent:** 13 June 2016 16:53  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FOI 53/16 - Electoral Fraud statistics (Portsmouth and Hampshire)  
**Attachments:** 2016 NPCC election SPOC reporting form.xls; Hampshire allegations 2010-15.xlsx

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Our Ref: FOI 53/16**

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 dated 19 May 2016.

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

Your requests are in bold below, followed by our response to each of your requests.

You have requested:

**I am concerned Hampshire Police simply does not take matters in relation to breaches of electoral law seriously, but instead responses to the concerns of politicians rather than the public.**

**Can you confirm you hold the following information and will release**

**a) reports of breaches electoral law by police force area in England during 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016**

The Electoral Commission works with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC – formerly ACPO, the Association of Chief Police Officers) to collect data from police forces about cases of alleged electoral fraud and receive monthly returns from all 45 territorial police forces across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Each year we have published and analysed this data. You can download the data and our analysis reports from our website at:

<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/find-information-by-subject/electoral-fraud/data-and-analysis>

We are still collecting data from police forces on allegations of electoral fraud reported during 2016, and will publish the quality assured data in February 2017.

**b) copies of manuals in 2010 and the latest in 2016 sent to Hampshire Police force in order to explain how to share information to the Electoral Commission over electoral fraud**

The Commission has produced guidance for police forces on preventing and detecting electoral fraud for more than 10 years. We now work with the College of Policing to provide access to Authorised Professional Practice on Policing Elections, which is available to read on the College of Policing website at: <https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/policing-elections/?s=>

We have also enclosed with this response a blank copy of the template Excel form for police forces to report cases of alleged electoral fraud to the Electoral Commission. The form includes

instructions to police force Single Point of Contact (SPOC) officers about how to record and report cases of alleged electoral fraud.

**c) reports of investigations held by the electoral commission of incidents since 2010 within the county of Hampshire and its lower tier authorities including subsequent action taken by the Electoral Commission**

The information you have requested is available in the data sets which we have published on our website, as mentioned in response to your request (a) above.

However, we have also provided a separate Excel document which sets out the cases of alleged electoral fraud which have been recorded by Hampshire Constabulary and reported to the Electoral Commission between 2010 and 2015. As mentioned above, we are still collecting data from police forces on allegations of electoral fraud reported during 2016, and will publish the quality assured data in February 2017.

**d) number of breaches of purdah reported to the electoral commission by area of responsibility of a monitoring officer since 2015 (e.g. upper-tier, lower tier, police)**

We assume that your reference to 'breaches of purdah' relate to alleged breaches of the *Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity*, which has been published by the Department of Communities and Local Government, and which is available on the UK Government website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recommended-code-of-practice-for-local-authority-publicity>.

The Electoral Commission is not responsible for dealing with and enforcing any complaints about breaches of the *Code*, and you can find some information about enforcing the *Code* at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/enforcing-the-code-of-recommended-practice-on-local-authority-publicity-equality-statement>.

We have, however, identified that we received a number of relevant reports since 1 January 2015, which are grouped below by area of responsibility of the monitoring officer as per your request:

- Police and Crime Commissioner: 1
- Unitary authority: 2
- District or borough council: 3
- Parish council: 1
- Area not specified: 4
- Total: 11**

In response to these reports we explained that the Electoral Commission is not responsible for dealing with and enforcing any complaints about breaches of the *Code*, and provided contact details for the Department of Communities and Local Government.

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

**Paul O'Malley**  
**Information Adviser (Records Management)**

The Electoral Commission

3 Bunhill Row

London EC1Y 8YZ

Tel: 020 7271 0554

Fax: 020 7271 0665

[www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk)

[www.aboutmyvote.co.uk](http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk)

**Putting voters first**



P Please consider the environment before printing this email.

## 2016 Election and Referendum related crime report Instructions for completing and submitting your return

Please submit your regular return for NPCC on the last working weekday of each month to West Midlands Police at ElectionReturns@West-Midlands.pnn.police.uk and copy to the Electoral Commission at electoralfraudreturns@electoralcommission.org.uk

If no additional case occurs during any month, and there are no changes regarding cases previously reported, please send an e-mail stating 'nil return' rather than re-submit the whole report.

If you have any difficulty or doubt about how to record a particular case please feel free to contact Inspector John Askew at West Midlands Police on 07825 938808 or Richard Jordan at the Electoral Commission at rjordan@electoralcommission.org.uk or on 020 7271 0562 who will be happy to talk through the preferred approach to help achieve consistency across

### FOR EACH CASE

Each case should first be entered on the Case1, Case2 etc tabs. Existing cases should be updated as needed.

Please do not use CaseA etc tabs unless instructed to do so by NPCC.

Users will have to select 'enable editing' before entering any information or the drop-down boxes will not be activated.

1. Select the name of your police force from the drop down list
2. Write in the name of the local authority administering the election
3. Write in the name of the electoral area which the offence relates to. **Note:** If you do not know the name of the electoral area please leave this blank.
4. Select the type of election to which the case refers from the drop down list.
5. Write in the date of the election if the offence relates to a specific election
6. Add in the unique crime number/force reference number for the case
7. Add in the date the crime was reported

\* To increase the text size in the drop down boxes please use the zoom function at the bottom right of the spreadsheet.

### FOR EACH SUSPECT

1. Select the category of offence from the drop down list
2. Select the specific offence from the drop down list. **Note:** You will not be able to select an offence until a category has been chosen.
3. Add the number of allegations in relation to that row
4. Choose the relevant allegation status from the drop down list
5. Add free text comments as required. These should be used to give detail on any aspect of the case. Eg if the case includes other police force areas.

**Note:** Allegations should be grouped on the same row by offence and status.

**Note:** Insert additional suspects on a new row (e.g. suspect 2) if required.

**Note:** If one suspect has more than one offence alleged against them then add details in a separate Suspect row. Please amend the text in column A 'Suspect' to make it clear that it is another offence for the same suspect. Please see the example worksheet for an illustration of this.

### REPORTING DATES

Please submit your regular return on the **last working weekday of each month** - for 2016 this will be 29 January, 29 February, 31 March, etc.

With regard to the elections to be held on 5 May 2016, or a major referendum, we are not seeking any additional interim returns this year.

**However, if a significant case or development occurs please inform NPCC/Electoral Commission immediately - do not wait for these reporting dates**

**Case1, Case2, Case3, Case4** etc - tabs for entering your information

**CaseA, CaseB, CaseC** - tabs for cases related to more than one police force area

**Example sheet** - a worked example of how to complete the form can be viewed here

**Totals** - this automatically works out totals. It is locked and can be ignored.

**Lists** - this contains information for the drop down lists. It is locked and can be ignored.

**2013, 2014 and 2015 cases** - If you have any 2013, 2014 or 2015 cases that were not resolved at 31 December 2015, please remember to let us have an update on those cases on the respective reporting form - 2013 (yellow), 2014 (claret) or 2015 (amber). You may still get valid allegations for May 2015 elections until May 2016. If you get a new case relating to elections in 2015 please use the 2015 form to let us know.

**Please use only one reporting file for all cases recorded during 2016.** Each case should be entered on the force returns file so that it receives the next sequential case number tab (up to Case 120) that it should always keep for future reference. It is important that a new form is not started for each month or after a series of nil returns.

### Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act (PPERA) 2000.

The Electoral Commission has powers to investigate compliance with the legislative controls relating to candidates, agents, third party campaigners and political party expenditure during an election campaign under PPERA.

**If it appears that an offence has been committed relating to donations reporting by a candidate or political party or third party campaigner or election spending by a third party campaigner or political party the force SPOC should contact the Commission at pef@electoralcommission.org.uk or on 0333 103 1928.**

| Police force | Case              | Category    | Summary    | Outcome    | Suspects | Allegations |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------|------------|------------|----------|-------------|
| England (S   | Hampshire Case 01 | Registratio | 13D (1) Fa | No further | 1        | 1           |

Election ty| Local auth| QA Comments

UK Parlian East Hamç registration 13D(1) false info, No Further Action - no offence