

Caitlin Lindenberg

From: FOI
Sent: 19 July 2016 13:23
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 65/16 - Ineligible voters and communications [Part 1]

Dear [REDACTED]

Our Ref: FOI 65/16

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 dated 3 June 2016.

The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly and regrets that on this occasion we have not done so.

Unfortunately, due to a significant and unavoidable delay in our internal processes, we are unable to fully respond to all parts of your request at this time. Therefore we will be releasing our response in two parts, addressing your first two queries below, whilst preparing a second response to your final query as soon as possible.

Your request is in bold below followed by our response.

You have requested:

The total number of ineligible voters given either poll cards or ballot papers.

All communications between the Electoral Registration Office and the Office of the Prime Minister.

All communications referring to electoral fraud in the upcoming European Referendum.

Our response is as follows:

The Commission holds some information in relation to your request

The total number of ineligible voters given either poll cards or ballot papers.

We can confirm that, as a result of an issue with elections software used by a number of local authorities in England and Wales, 3,502 EU citizens, who were not eligible to vote in the referendum, were mistakenly issued with poll cards or postal ballot papers.

The Electoral Commission has issued two statements on this issue, outlining the actions taken to address the issue and to confirm the numbers of individuals affected. The statements can be accessed on our website at <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/journalist/electoral-commission-media-centre/news-releases-referendums/electoral-commission-statement-on-non-eligible-eu-citizen-voters> and <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/journalist/electoral-commission-media-centre/news-releases-referendums/electoral-commission-update-on-non-eligible-eu-citizen-voters>

In addition, in order to promote transparency and confidence in the administration of the referendum, the Chief Counting Officer published a log to capture issues that, in her opinion, could have had a widespread or significant impact on the delivery of the referendum or have affected confidence in the result. This issue was recorded in this log, which can be found at: <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/find-information-by-subject/elections-and-referendums/upcoming-elections-and-referendums/eu-referendum>.

All communications between the Electoral Registration Office and the Office of the Prime Minister.

We have understood your request as relating to communications between the Electoral Commission and the Office of the Prime Minister which relates to ineligible voters receiving either a poll card or a ballot paper for the referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union. We do not hold any such information.

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

Paul O'Malley
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www.electoralcommission.org.uk

www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

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