

From: FOI
Sent: 12 July 2016 10:01
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 94/16 - Cross-constituency vote scrutiny

Dear [REDACTED]

Our Ref: FOI 94/16

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 dated 21 June 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:

As you know, multiple property owners with residential properties in multiple constituencies are able to register to vote in multiple constituencies.

What cross-constituency vote scrutiny and screening methods and measures are in place to eliminate, invalidate and disqualify multiple votes cast by multiple property owners in multiple constituencies in the forthcoming UK/EU referendum on June 23rd 2016?

Our response is as follows:

A person must be resident in order to be eligible to be registered to vote in respect of a particular address. It is, however, possible for a person to be registered to vote at more than one address. We provide guidance to Electoral Registration Officers to help them to establish whether someone is entitled to be registered to vote in respect of a particular address. This guidance can be found in Chapter 3 of [Part 2: The registration framework](#) of our Individual Electoral Registration guidance.

The poll for the referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union was administered by 382 local Counting Officers (one for each local authority in Great Britain, one for Northern Ireland and one for Gibraltar).

After the referendum, each Electoral Registration Officer in England and Wales and each Counting Officer in Scotland and Northern Ireland will retain copies of the marked electoral register and absent voting lists (showing which electors were issued with a ballot paper in a polling station or returned a postal ballot pack) for a year and must make copies of these available for inspection on request. Additionally, specified individuals and organisations, including registered political parties and registered referendum campaigners are entitled, on request and on payment of a fee, to a copy of the marked registers and lists.

There is no legal provision or technical facility to allow Counting Officers to prevent people who were registered in more than one voting area from casting a vote in each of the areas in which they are registered. It is, however, an offence to have voted more than once in the referendum, and anyone convicted of this offence could be fined – such a fine being of any amount if convicted in England and Wales, or up to a maximum of £5,000 if convicted in Scotland or Northern Ireland.

Anyone who has any evidence that someone has voted more than once in the referendum should report it to

the police, who will commence appropriate inquiries. Every police force in the UK has a Single Point of Contact Officer for election- and referendum-related crimes who can give specialist advice to local police officers.

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

www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

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