

Caitlin Lindenberg

From: FOI
Sent: 29 June 2016 14:29
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: FOI 99/16 - EU referendum spoiled ballots

Dear [REDACTED],

Our Ref: FOI 99/16

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act dated 24th 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:

- How many votes were cast in pen and how many were cast in pencil during the EU Referendum on June 23?**
- How many ballot papers were counted as spoiled in the EU Referendum?**
- Please could you give the reasons the ballot papers were counted as spoiled?
If this is not possible, please could you give the top 10 reasons ballot papers were counted as spoiled?**
- Referring to the question above, please could you give the number of ballot papers spoiled per reason?**
- Could you tell me how many ballot papers were spoiled because of ink smudges?**

Our response is as follows:

The Commission does not hold all the data requested. Data is not available on:

- The number of votes cast in pen or pencil
- How many ballot papers were spoiled because of ink smudges

We do hold data on the total number of spoiled ballot papers and the statutory reasons they were counted as spoiled:

- A total of 25,359 votes were spoiled, representing 0.1% of all votes cast. This total breaks down as follows:
 - No official mark – 232
 - Voting for both answers – 9,084
 - Writing or mark – 836
 - Unmarked or void – 15,207

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

Jo Crofton-Diggins
Information Manager

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Putting voters first

From: FOI
Sent: 24 June 2016 13:24
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 99/16 - EU referendum spoiled ballots

Dear [REDACTED],

Our Ref: FOI 99/16

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act dated 24th June 2016, concerning:

- **How many votes were cast in pen and how many were cast in pencil during the EU Referendum on June 23?**
- **How many ballot papers were counted as spoiled in the EU Referendum?**
- **Please could you give the reasons the ballot papers were counted as spoiled?**
If this is not possible, please could you give the top 10 reasons ballot papers were counted as spoiled?

- Referring to the question above, please could you give the number of ballot papers spoiled per reason?

- Could you tell me how many ballot papers were spoiled because of ink smudges?

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

You may expect to receive a reply sent from the Commission by 22nd July 2016.

Yours sincerely,

Paul O'Malley
Information Adviser (Records Management)

The Electoral Commission

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www.electoralcommission.org.uk

www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

Putting voters first

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