

Freedom of Information (FOI) request

Received: 20 April 2024
Date: 19 November 2024
Ref: Sent by email from enquiries@theccc.org.uk
Published: www.theccc.org.uk/about/transparency

Your request:

Hi,

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am requesting all information related to guidance, advice, legal opinion or similar relating to your organization and the period of pre-election period of sensitivity around the May 2 2024 local elections in England and Wales that is commonly observed by government organizations, including arms length bodies.

The information can be sent to my email; [email redacted]

Regards,

[name redacted]

Our response:

Thank you for your request. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

As a Non-Departmental Public Body, the CCC is required to follow the UK Government's [May 2024 Elections: guidance on conduct for civil servants \(HTML\) - GOV.UK](#), which also defines the pre-election period of sensitivity.

All relevant correspondence falling under your request is listed in Annex A.

Under regulation FOIA section 40(2) with 40(3A), personal information from junior CCC staff has been removed.

Information disclosed in response to this FOIA request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on the CCC website, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the CCC website.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. If you are not content with the outcome of the review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. In keeping with our transparency policy, the information

released to you will be published on www.theccc.org.uk. Please note that this publication will not include your personal data.

Kind regards,

Climate Change Committee

Annex A – correspondence

Email chain one

From: [name redacted]< [email redacted]>

Sent: Friday, May 10, 2024 12:15 PM

To: [name redacted]< [email redacted]>

Subject: RE: question about involvement with local councillors

Hi [name redacted],

I've referred to the May 2024 Elections: guidance and the Civil Service Management Code (section 4.4) which covers political participation in a private capacity. The Civil Service Code includes canvassing on behalf of candidates for election to local authorities or a local political organisation as a political activity that is subject to restriction.

Although I understand your role is not formal in that you are not formally appointed as their Campaign Co-ordinator you are working with their campaign team and coordinating canvassing activity. I'm concerned that this could be viewed as canvassing on behalf of candidates for local election and I'm not sure that the fact that it is behind the scenes provides sufficient mitigation.

So my recommendation would be not to undertake this activity. I hope this is not too frustrating and happy to discuss.

Best regards

[name redacted]

From: [name redacted]< [email redacted]>

Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 9:37 AM

To: [name redacted]< [email redacted]>

Subject: RE: question about involvement with local councillors

Yes sure. I would like to support a group of three councillors (and their ward team) a little bit more in the background. It would be completely behind the scenes and mainly making sure that there are clear plans and deadlines for street letters. Coordinating who goes doorknocking and where. I would not be their ward coordinator, but would help with coordinating. It is completely focused on local councillor work and as always I will keep out of anything that is even remotely linked to national politics.

Best,

[name redacted]

From: [name redacted] <[email redacted]>

Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 5:31 PM

To: [name redacted] <[email redacted]>

Subject: RE: question about involvement with local councillors

Hi [name redacted] – would you mind putting it in an email?

Thanks,

[name redacted]

From: [name redacted] <[email redacted]>

Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 10:23 AM

To: [name redacted] <[email redacted]>

Subject: question about involvement with local councillors

Hi [name redacted],

You may remember that last year we had a conversation about activities it would be ok for me to still be involved in with the local council group that I used to be part of. If it is ok, I would like to get your advice on this again. I can either write it out in an email, or it may be easier to have a quick call?

Best,

[name redacted]