

FOI 249/2016

REQUEST

1. Please provide the number of UK voters registered in your district as due to be issued with a Referendum postal ballot pack, sent to an overseas EU postal address, by separate totals in each of the 27 EU Member States (including Malta and Cyprus).
2. Please provide the total number of UK voters registered in your district as due to be issued with a Referendum postal ballot pack to an overseas Commonwealth and British territory, by separate totals in each named territory (excluding Malta and Cyprus).
3. Please provide the estimated or known cost/s for arranging an international business response licence with Royal Mail to cover for the first despatch (23-27.05.2016) and return of overseas postal ballot packs to overseas UK voters registered in your district.

As the registration process is ongoing, numbers should relate to completion totals for the first despatch (23-27.05.2016). I request the above information by 06.06.2016.

RESPONSE

Please now find below the answers to your questions:-

Counting Officers (COs) and Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) are not a public authority under the Freedom Information Act 2000 and, as such, are exempt from the disclosure requirements imposed by that legislation. However, where possible, in the spirit of the legislation, we would normally disclose the requested information, provided that the information is already in the public domain, is readily available in the format requested and the information requested does not include personal data.

Question 1

Please provide the number of UK voters registered in your district as due to be issued with a Referendum postal ballot pack, sent to an overseas EU postal address, by separate totals in each of the 27 EU Member States (including Malta and Cyprus).

We do not hold data in the format requested and are not be able to easily extract it however, I can confirm we currently have 414 overseas electors registered within the Tendring voting area, which includes all overseas addresses.

Question 2

Please provide the total number of UK voters registered in your district as due to be issued with a Referendum postal ballot pack to an overseas Commonwealth and British territory, by separate totals in each named territory (excluding Malta and Cyprus).

We do not hold data in the format requested and are not be able to easily extract it.

Question 3

Please provide the estimated or known cost/s for arranging an international business response licence with Royal Mail to cover for the first despatch (23-27.05.2016) and return of

overseas postal ballot packs to overseas UK voters registered in your district. As the registration process is ongoing, numbers should relate to completion totals for the first despatch (23-27.05.2016).

Arrangements for the setting up of international business response licences with Royal Mail have been directed by the Chief Counting Officer and costs will be met centrally through provision made under 'The Referendum on the UK's Membership of the European Union (Counting Officers' and Regional Counting Officers' Charges) Regulations 2016'. The cost of setting up a licence for each CO's voting area is £186 (inc. VAT). At this moment, without knowing the final number of overseas electors who will register and will request postal votes, and also being unable to estimate the likely return level of such postal votes, we cannot know the final cost and no estimates have been made.