

## **FOI 364 2015**

### **REQUEST**

1. Ahead of the 2015 General Election, did the local authority give training to polling station staff around supporting people with a learning disability to vote?
2. Ahead of the 2015 General Election, a) was the local authority aware of Mencap's 'Easy guides to voting and registering to vote' ([https://www.mencap.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Easy\\_guide\\_voting.pdf](https://www.mencap.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Easy_guide_voting.pdf)); and b) if so, did the local authority distribute this to relevant local organisations/groups/services?
3. How many voter registration events did the local authority attend/run for people with a learning disability ahead of a) the 2015 General Election and b) the 2010 General Election?
4. Ahead of the 2015 General Election, a) did the local authority receive a fact sheet from the Electoral Commission – produced jointly by the Electoral Commission and Mencap – entitled 'What you need to do if you want to vote on 7 May'; and b) if so, was this distributed to polling station staff?
5. Are all of the polling stations in the local authority area accessible for people using wheelchairs?
6. How many complaints have you received about the accessibility of your polling stations in the local authority area, following the 2015 General Election?
7. Was the local authority made aware of any problems with people with a learning disability voting on 7th May 2015? If so, a) how many people with a learning disability were affected, and b) how many people with a learning disability were stopped from voting?

### **RESPONSE**

1. Mandatory face-to-face Polling Station staff training was given on behalf of the ARO using the Electoral Commission's template, at which everyone appointed to work at polling stations was issued with the Electoral Commission's Polling Station handbook and instructed to read it prior to polling day. This handbook contains specific guidance regarding electors with a learning disability.
2. a) Yes.
2. b) A link to this document was published on the Tendring District Council website well in advance of polling day, together with the Mencap "All about voting guide" (<http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/council/elections-voting/register-vote> ).
3. a) None.
3. b) None.
4. a) There is no record of this having been issued directly to the ARO although this was made available as a resource on the Electoral Commission website and highlighted in their bulletin 102 (2015).
- 4 b) No however, the information provided was as set out in the Polling Station handbook (see 1.)

5. Yes.
6. None.
7. No.