

**FOI – 66/2018**

**REQUEST**

For the years 2016 and 2017, please provide a list of registered third parties - regulated by the Electoral Commission - that have requested electoral registers and/or electoral register updates, overseas voters lists, and/or absent voters lists.

For each registered third party, please provide details on what they requested and when they requested it. Please also indicate whether their requests were fulfilled.

**RESPONSE**

Further to your FOI request submitted on 2 February 2018, to clarify, the registration of electors and the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) are governed by the Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended. Under Section 8 of the Act, the council must appoint an officer of the council to be the registration officer for any constituency or part of a constituency coterminous with or situated in the council's area. The Chief Executive is the appointed officer for the Tendring electoral area and his appointment as ERO is separate to his appointment as Chief Executive. Whilst appointed by the council, the ERO's responsibilities and duties are personal and an example of this is that the register of electors is deemed to be the property of the ERO, not the local authority.

The ERO does not carry out the duties on behalf of the local authority but in his own personal capacity and as such, is not a public authority and accordingly, ERO's are not subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

The ERO does, of course, ensure that any supply of the electoral register and data contained with it is undertaken strictly in accordance with legislative requirements and it may assist to confirm that requests of the nature specified in your enquiry were received from one registered third party only during the period in question.