

FOI Ref

9088

Response sent

14 June 2021

(CCC) Elections

The questions are included within the response attachment.

Response

I refer to your request under the Freedom of Information Act regarding elections in Cambridge. Returning Officers are not public bodies subject to the Freedom of Information Act. The functions of these officers are separate from the functions of an authority which employs them and there is no statutory obligation for a Returning Officer to provide you with information or supply answers to your questions. Consequently, the Council is unable to provide you with information that is held by or on behalf of the Returning Officer where the Council does not also hold that information on its own behalf.

Please note that a list of public bodies and local authorities who are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act are listed in Schedule 1 to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Act does not list any person appointed under the Representation of the People Act 1983. It therefore follows that the Returning Officer, Electoral Registration Officer or any other person appointed under the Act are not subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Notwithstanding that there is no statutory obligation to provide this information I attach responses to your questions.

Further queries on this matter should be directed to foi@cambridge.gov.uk

| Questions | Answers |
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| How many staff did the council have in employment exclusively to work in the elections services team at each of the following elections? | |
| 1. General Election 2015 | 6 (4 F/T permanent, 1 F/T secondment & 1 F/T temporary) |
| 2. General Election 2017 | 6 (4 F/T permanent, 1 F/T secondment & 1 F/T temporary) |
| 3. General Election 2019 | 6 (4 F/T permanent, 1 F/T secondment & 1 F/T temporary) |
| 4. May 2021 round of elections | 5 (4 F/T permanent & 1 F/T secondment) |
| What was the total budget for the electoral services team in each of the following years? | Information below is based on financial year, not calendar year & is service budget covering both election & registration elements |
| 1. 2016 | 2016/17 - £313,600 |
| 2. 2017 | 2017/18 - £211,450 |
| 3. 2018 | 2018/19 - £350,980 |
| 4. 2019 | 2019/20 - £338,431 |
| 5. 2020 | 2020/21 - £377,350 |
| 6. 2021 | 2021/22 - £392,950 |
| Could you please provide me with the estimated or actual amount of money spent by the local authority on each of the following items when administering the a) General Election 2015 b) General Election 2017 c) General Election 2019 d) May 2021 elections? | Please note: 1) UKPE in 2015 was combined with City Council elections 2) Financial information on the cost of the May 2021 elections (q. d) is not currently available |
| 1. Printing of Postal Votes | a) £4,091.95 b) £10,525.76 c) £10,529.88 |
| 2. Distribution of Postal Votes | a) £3,545.46 b) £12,277.31 c) £7,735.89 |
| 3. Staff time for manning polling stations including 'Covid Ambassadors/Information Officers' to welcome voters | a) £13,568 b) £25,815.09 c) £25,646.25 |
| 4. Hiring Polling Station Venues | a) £3,916.14 b) £14,627.80 c) £13,842.75 |
| 5. Hiring of Count Venues | a) £0 b) £0 c) £0 |
| 6. Additional infrastructure to ensure the process was COVID 'secure' (eg individual pencils, Perspex screens, hand sanitiser) | This is only relevant to May 2021, which is not currently available |
| How many Presiding Officers worked on each of the following elections in your council area? | |
| 1. General Election 2015 | 43 |
| 2. General Election 2017 | 46 |
| 3. General Election 2019 | 48 |
| 4. May 2021 round of elections | 54 |
| How many Polling Clerks worked on each of the following elections in your council area? | |
| 1. General Election 2015 | 124 |
| 2. General Election 2017 | 119 |
| 3. General Election 2019 | 105 |
| 4. May 2021 round of elections | 147 |
| How much money was spent on training Presiding Officers and Polling Clerks at each of the following elections? | |
| 1. General Election 2015 | £1,635 |
| 2. General Election 2017 | £1,325 |

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| 3. General Election 2019 | £8,865 |
| 4. May 2021 round of elections | Financial information on the cost of the May 2021 elections is not currently available |
| How many 'tendered' ballot papers were issued in your council area for each of the following elections? | |
| 1. General Election 2015 | Information not available |
| 2. General Election 2017 | Information not available |
| 3. General Election 2019 | Information not available |
| 4. May 2021 round of elections | Information not available |
| Were all candidates/parties that were properly nominated on the final ballot paper given to voters at the May 2021 round of elections? | Yes |