

Request

I am asking a few questions about the procedures your council used during the May 2023 local elections.

- 1) Were greeters (i.e. staff positioned outside the polling station to inform potential voters about various issues) used at any polling stations in order to turn people away due to voter ID requirements?
- 2) If so, at how many polling stations were greeters present out of the total number of polling stations?
- 3) And if so, did greeters record the number turned away, and if so would it be possible to have that data?
- 4) Will your council introduce or continue to use greeters to turn people away due to voter ID requirements in the future?
- 5) Does the council have any further comments they'd like to make on the use of greeters (if so, please include)?

Response

With reference to your request for information relating to this request, I would like to draw your attention to the distinction between the roles of the local authority and those of the Returning Officer for local elections.

The role of the Returning Officer is separate from that of the Chief Executive of the local authority and the responsibilities and duties associated with the former roles are personal to the postholder. A list of public bodies and local authorities that are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act is available at the following website:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/schedule/1>

As you will see, the Freedom of Information Act does not list any person appointed under the Representation of the People Act 1983 (or related electoral legislation). It therefore follows that the (Acting) Returning Officer or any other person appointed under the 1983 Act (or related electoral legislation) such as the Counting Officer, are not subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Therefore, as there is no statutory obligation to provide you with this information, I am on this occasion unable to supply any answers to your question.