

Request

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). I would like to know:

- 1) How many people were turned away at polling stations in your local authority due to not bringing valid ID during the May 2023 local elections.
- 2) How many of those subsequently returned with valid ID (if this information is available).
- 3) The number of successfully submitted votes in the May 2023 election.
- 4) The total number of people registered to vote at the time of that election.

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.