



## Request

I am writing to submit a Freedom of Information (FOI) request regarding the upcoming local elections in May 2025. Could you please provide the following information:

1. A breakdown of the funds allocated by the council for voter outreach programs (e.g., leafleting, advertising, public engagement) for the May 2025 elections.
2. Information on any specific measures being taken to ensure accessibility at polling stations for voters with disabilities in the upcoming elections.
3. Details of the allocated budget for recruitment, training, and compensation of election poll workers for the May 2025 local elections.
4. Any other election-related spending or initiatives that may not be widely published but are planned for the May 2025 elections.

## Response

With reference to your request for information, 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 questions.