

11 January 2024

IC-275891-H1C8

Request

You asked us:

"Please could I request:

a) The number of complaints made since 1 January 2018 about the following organisations:

- The Labour Party*
- The Conservative Party*
- The Liberal Democrats*
- The Green Party of England and Wales*

b) Those complaints broken down into reason for complaint using whatever categorisation is used by the ICO, but at a minimum separating out those which relate to the organisations not complying with Subject Access Requests

c) A summary breakdown of whether the ICO has upheld or not upheld those complaints

d) Details of any action which has been taken against these organisations by the ICO since 1 January 2018, including any special monitoring of their compliance or assistance provided to them by the ICO to make them compliant with their legal responsibilities."

We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOIA).

Our response

We have searched our systems based on the information you provided and can confirm that we hold some information within the scope of your request.

It may be helpful to explain the ICO regularly disposes of old case files in line with our [Retention and Disposal Policy](#). This means that we do not hold complaint records dating back to 1 January 2018. The oldest record we hold in scope of

your request dates to 7 June 2019. This means that for 1 January 2018 – 6 June 2019, no information is held within the scope of your request.

In searching our records, we have included complaints about both data protection and Freedom of Information. We have also included complaints about regional chapters of the 4 political parties you listed.

Please find attached a file containing all of the complaints we hold in scope of your request. This data set includes which party it is about, the legislative reason for the complaint, and the outcome of the complaint. Details from the data set will be presented in more detail below.

In your request you asked for complaints regarding Subject Access Requests (SARs). These will be presented in the column for 'Decision Primary Reason' as 'Art 15 - Right of access'.

The ICO does not classify complaints as 'upheld' or 'not upheld'. Instead, they are classified as 'No action,' 'No infringement,' 'Potential Infringement,' 'Infringement,' and 'Investigation Pursued.'

Each of your specific question will be answered in detail in turn below.

a) The number of complaints made since 1 January 2018 about the following organisations:

- The Labour Party***
- The Conservative Party***
- The Liberal Democrats***
- The Green Party of England and Wales***

Please find below a chart showing all of the Data Protection (DP) and Environmental Information Regulation (EIR) and Freedom of Information (FOI) complaints about each of the political parties you listed, including regional chapters of each party between 7 June 2019 and 11 December 2023 (the date of your request).

Count of ICOCASERef	Column Labels		Grand Total
	DP	EIR,FOI	
Row Labels			
Labour Party	504	3	507
Liberal Democrats	51		51
The Conservative Party	40		40
The Green Party	14		14
Scottish Green Party	4		4
Scottish Labour Party	2		2
North Tyneside Constituency Labour Party	1		1
Halton Conservative Party	1		1
Portsmouth Liberal Democrats	1		1
Kensington & Chelsea Liberal Democrats	1		1
Newcastle upon Tyne North Constituency Labour Party	1		1
Brighton Pavilion Constituency Labour Party	1		1
Oxford and District Labour Party	1		1
East Midlands Labour Party	1		1
Hartlepool Constituency Labour Party	1		1
Social Democratic and Labour Party	1		1
Leeds Green Party	1		1
Cotswold Liberal Democrats	1		1
Stoke Central Constituency Labour Party	1		1
The Welsh Conservative Party	1		1
Cardiff North Constituency Labour Party	1		1
Brighton & Hove Labour Party	1		1
Maidenhead Liberal Democrats	1		1
Grand Total	632	3	635

b) Those complaints broken down into reason for complaint using whatever categorisation is used by the ICO, but at a minimum separating out those which relate to the organisations not complying with Subject Access Requests

Please find below a chart showing the complaints for each party broken down by the primary legislative reason for the complaint.

As stated above, complaints regarding Subject Access Requests are indicated as being complaints relating to Article 15.

Row Labels	Count of Decision Primary Reason
Brighton & Hove Labour Party	1
Art 15(3)(1) - Provide a copy of the personal data	1
Brighton Pavilion Constituency Labour Party	1
Art 21(2) - Objection to direct marketing	1
Cardiff North Constituency Labour Party	1
Art 17(1) - Right to erasure	1
Cotswold Liberal Democrats	1
Art 5(1)(f) - Integrity and confidentiality principle	1
East Midlands Labour Party	1
Art 15(1)(g) - Source of personal data	1
Halton Conservative Party	1
Art 5(1)(f) - Integrity and confidentiality principle	1
Hartlepool Constituency Labour Party	1
Art 15 - Right of access	1
Kensington & Chelsea Liberal Democrats	1
Art 15(3)(1) - Provide a copy of the personal data	1
Labour Party	507
Art 11 - Processing which does not require identification	1
Art 12(2)(2) - Unable to identify DS	1
Art 12(3)(1) - Within 1 month	1
Art 14 - Right to be informed	50
Art 15 - Right of access	248
Art 15(1) - Confirmation of processing	1
Art 15(3)(1) - Provide a copy of the personal data	19
Art 16 - Right to rectification	3
Art 17 - Right to erasure	14
Art 17(1) - Right to erasure	4
Art 21 - Right to object	4
Art 21(1) - Objection to processing	4
Art 32 - Security of processing	117
Art 5 - Principles relating to processing of personal data	2
Art 5(1)(a) - Lawfulness, fairness and transparency principle	8
Art 5(1)(c) - Data minimisation principle	1
Art 5(1)(d) - Accuracy principle	1
Art 5(1)(e) - Storage limitation principle	1
Art 5(1)(f) - Integrity and confidentiality principle	13
Art 6 - Lawfulness of processing	1
Art 6(1)(f) - Legitimate interests	1
Art 9(2)(d) - Not-for-profit body	1

S50 - Application for decision by Commissioner	1
Unassigned	10
Leeds Green Party	1
Unassigned	1
Liberal Democrats	51
Art 14 - Right to be informed	3
Art 15 - Right of access	5
Art 15(3)(1) - Provide a copy of the personal data	5
Art 17 - Right to erasure	8
Art 17(1)(b) - Consent withdrawn	2
Art 18 - Right to restriction	1
Art 21 - Right to object	4
Art 21(1) - Objection to processing	1
Art 21(2) - Objection to direct marketing	3
Art 32 - Security of processing	4
Art 5(1)(a) - Lawfulness, fairness and transparency principle	1
Art 5(1)(b) - Purpose limitation principle	1
Art 5(1)(f) - Integrity and confidentiality principle	6
Art 6 - Lawfulness of processing	1
Art 6(1)(a) - Consent	1
Art 7 - Conditions for consent	2
Unassigned	3
Maidenhead Liberal Democrats	1
Art 14 - Right to be informed	1
Newcastle upon Tyne North Constituency Labour Party	1
Art 15 - Right of access	1
North Tyneside Constituency Labour Party	1
Unassigned	1
Oxford and District Labour Party	1
Art 15 - Right of access	1
Portsmouth Liberal Democrats	1
Art 21 - Right to object	1
Scottish Green Party	4
Art 14 - Right to be informed	1
Art 15 - Right of access	1
Art 15(3)(1) - Provide a copy of the personal data	1
Art 21(2) - Objection to direct marketing	1
Scottish Labour Party	2
Art 21 - Right to object	2
Social Democratic and Labour Party	1
Art 15(1)(g) - Source of personal data	1

Stoke Central Constituency Labour Party	1
Art 14 - Right to be informed	1
The Conservative Party	40
Art 14 - Right to be informed	4
Art 15 - Right of access	6
Art 16 - Right to rectification	1
Art 17 - Right to erasure	2
Art 17(1) - Right to erasure	2
Art 18 - Right to restriction	1
Art 21 - Right to object	1
Art 21(1) - Objection to processing	1
Art 21(2) - Objection to direct marketing	7
Art 26 - Joint controllers	1
Art 5 - Principles relating to processing of personal data	1
Art 5(1)(a) - Lawfulness, fairness and transparency principle	2
Art 5(1)(f) - Integrity and confidentiality principle	2
Art 6 - Lawfulness of processing	3
Art 6(1)(e) - Public interest	1
Art 7(1) - Demonstrate consent	1
Prt 3 - Ch 2 - S40 - Security Principle	1
Unassigned	3
The Green Party	14
Art 15 - Right of access	2
Art 15(3)(1) - Provide a copy of the personal data	4
Art 17 - Right to erasure	3
Art 17(1) - Right to erasure	1
Art 17(1)(c) - Objection	1
Art 21 - Right to object	1
Art 21(1) - Objection to processing	1
Art 5(1)(f) - Integrity and confidentiality principle	1
The Welsh Conservative Party	1
Art 5(1)(a) - Lawfulness, fairness and transparency principle	1
Grand Total	635

c) A summary breakdown of whether the ICO has upheld or not upheld those complaints

Please find below a chart showing the outcomes of complaints regarding each political party. Further detail about these complaints and their outcomes can be found in the attached data set.

Row Labels	Count of Decision
Brighton & Hove Labour Party	1
Unassigned	1
Brighton Pavilion Constituency Labour Party	1
Informal action taken	1
Cardiff North Constituency Labour Party	1
Informal action taken	1
Cotswold Liberal Democrats	1
Informal action taken	1
East Midlands Labour Party	1
Informal action taken	1
Halton Conservative Party	1
No Further Action	1
Hartlepool Constituency Labour Party	1
No Further Action	1
Kensington & Chelsea Liberal Democrats	1
No Further Action	1
Labour Party	507
Informal action taken	397
No Further Action	105
Unassigned	5
Leeds Green Party	1
Informal action taken	1
Liberal Democrats	51
Informal action taken	32
No Further Action	18
Unassigned	1
Maidenhead Liberal Democrats	1
No Further Action	1
Newcastle upon Tyne North Constituency Labour Party	1
Informal action taken	1
North Tyneside Constituency Labour Party	1
Unassigned	1
Oxford and District Labour Party	1
No Further Action	1
Portsmouth Liberal Democrats	1
Informal action taken	1
Scottish Green Party	4
Informal action taken	2

No Further Action	2
Scottish Labour Party	2
Informal action taken	1
No Further Action	1
Social Democratic and Labour Party	1
Informal action taken	1
Stoke Central Constituency Labour Party	1
Informal action taken	1
The Conservative Party	40
Informal action taken	14
No Further Action	23
Unassigned	3
The Green Party	14
Informal action taken	8
No Further Action	6
The Welsh Conservative Party	1
No Further Action	1
Grand Total	635

d) Details of any action which has been taken against these organisations by the ICO since 1 January 2018, including any special monitoring of their compliance or assistance provided to them by the ICO to make them compliant with their legal responsibilities

The ICO publishes all of our enforcement action [on our website](#). This includes reprimands, monetary penalties, enforcement notices, and prosecutions.

[We also publish](#) enforcement notices, information notices, and practice recommendations specifically relating to FOI.

In 2020 we published an [audit report of data protection compliance by UK political parties](#). This report is also available via the enforcement action page linked above.

Because this material is already reasonably accessible to you, it is technically withheld under section 21 of the FOIA. This exempts information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant through means other than a request under the FOIA.

It is an absolute exemption, which means it is not necessary for us to consider any public interest test.

No other information has been withheld from disclosure or redacted.

This concludes our response to your request.

Next steps

You can ask us to review our response. Please let us know in writing if you want us to carry out a review. Please do so within 40 working days.

You can read a copy of our full review procedure [here](#).

If we perform a review but you are still dissatisfied, you can complain to the ICO as regulator of the FOIA. This complaint will be handled just like a complaint made to the ICO about any other public authority.

You can [raise a complaint through our website](#).

Your information

Our [Privacy notice](#) explains what we do with the personal data you provide to us, and set out your rights. Our retention schedule can be found [here](#).

Yours sincerely



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