



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: FOI335721357

Thank you for your request for information relating to Election Services.

You have requested the following information:

Whilst that there is no statutory obligation to provide this information, to be of assistance, detailed below is your question and as much of the information which is available in response to your question.

I can confirm that Parliamentary Elections are governed by the Representation of the People Act 1983 (The Act) as amended and Coventry City Council must appoint an officer of the council to be the Returning Officer (RO) and the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) which is Martin Reeves, Chief Executive of the Council. Although appointed by the council, the RO and ERO does not carry out the duties or responsibilities of the post on behalf of the Council but in their own appointed capacity. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI) does not list any appointed person under the Representation of People Act.

1. How many staff did the council have in employment exclusively to work in the elections

services team at each of the following elections?

a. General Election 2015

6.5 including an apprentice.

b. General Election 2017

6.5 including an apprentice.

c. General Election 2019

Six with no apprentice.

d. May 2021 round of elections

Seven.

2. What was the total budget for the electoral services team in each of the following years?

a. 2016

£159,699

b. 2017

£162,370

c. 2018

£169,654

d. 2019

£172,646

e. 2020

£183,297

f. 2021

£181,203

3. 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?

a. Printing of Postal Votes

b. Distribution of Postal Votes

c. Staff time for manning polling stations including 'Covid Ambassadors/Information Officers' to welcome voters

d. Hiring Polling Station Venues

e. Hiring of Count Venues

f. Additional infrastructure to ensure the process was COVID 'secure' (eg individual pencils, Perspex screens, hand sanitiser)

4. How many Presiding Officers worked on each of the following elections in your council area?

a. General Election 2015

b. General Election 2017

c. General Election 2019

d. May 2021 round of elections

5. How many Polling Clerks worked on each of the following elections in your council area?

a. General Election 2015

b. General Election 2017

c. General Election 2019

d. May 2021 round of elections

6. How much money was spent on training Presiding Officers and Polling Clerks at each of the following elections?

a. General Election 2015

b. General Election 2017

c. General Election 2019

d. May 2021 round of elections

7. How many 'tendered' ballot papers were issued in your council area for each of the following elections?

a. General Election 2015

b. General Election 2017

c. General Election 2019

d. May 2021 round of elections

In relation to Questions 3 to 7 the Returning Officer is required to submit election accounts to the Cabinet Office on the cost of elections so this information is available directly from the Cabinet Office. Information on making a request can be found on the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request>

8. Were all candidates/parties that were properly nominated on the final ballot paper given to voters at the May 2021 round of elections?

Yes.

The supply of information in response to a Freedom of Information request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance