



Brighton & Hove City Council
4th Floor Bartholomew House
Bartholomew Square
Brighton
BN1 1JE

Mr Spencer Gasson

FOI Reference: 2793165

Direct Dial: 01273 295959

Email: xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.x

Date: 14 January 2019

Your reference:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx

Dear Mr Gasson

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Please see our response to your Freedom of Information request below.

Voting Arrangements for Residents in Hospitals and Prisons

1 Under the Freedom of Information Act, what arrangements are made to register people who may be in hospital (inc mental health) and prisons and when were these put in place? (Includes:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2005/9/section/29>)

Electors who are eligible to register to vote and residing in hospital or prison can make an application to be added to the Register of Electors by completing a Declaration of Local Connection form. If they are unable to attend their polling station then they can also complete a form to put in place an absent vote allowing them to vote by post or proxy.

2 How are people who are either in or out of the City but in hospitals, prisons, held in a police station or at hospitals, prisons, police stations and courts able to cast their vote and exercise their democratic rights in line with legislation?

As with all registered electors, if an elector is unable to attend a polling station then they can apply to vote by post or proxy. The deadline to apply for a postal vote is 5pm 11 working days prior to poll. The deadline to apply for a proxy vote is 5pm 5 working days prior to poll. If a medical or work emergency occurs after the proxy deadline then an elector can apply for an emergency proxy by 5pm on polling day.

3 Does the council arrange to visit hospital (wards) and if so which hospitals and wards have been visited each time Brighton & Hove votes since the 1997 general election? And how many votes were cast in each?

Electors must attend a polling station, vote by post or vote by proxy. There is no ability for votes to be cast via a visit from the Returning Officer and their staff.

4 How has the council enabled people on Brighton & Hove's electoral role to vote if they are out of the borough in hospital, prison, held in a police station or attending court?

As with all registered electors, if an elector is unable to attend a polling station then they can apply to vote by post or proxy. The deadline to apply for a postal vote is 5pm 11 working days prior to poll. The deadline to apply for a proxy vote is 5pm 5 working days prior to poll. If a medical or work emergency occurs after the proxy deadline then an elector can apply for an emergency proxy by 5pm on polling day.

5 How much do the Trusts and other bodies contribute to the costs of making sure the people they have a duty of care, to exercise their voting rights and maintaining their rights including confidentiality?

The Electoral Services department does not receive any funding other than via the local authority, central government and the Cabinet Office's Election Claims Unit.

6 Is a member of electoral services staff or an independent scrutineer/volunteer available to assist and issue ballot papers in order to satisfy the Returning Officer that the votes have been cast in accordance with legislation requirements?

All ballot papers are issued by the Returning Officer and their appointed staff in line with legislative requirements either at the polling station or at the issue of postal voting ballots papers.

Please quote the reference number 2793165 in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an Internal Review. Internal Review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original request, as per ICO Guidance <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/> and should be addressed to:

xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx

or by post to;

Information Governance Team
Brighton & Hove City Council
4th Floor, Bartholomew House
Bartholomew Square
Brighton
BN1 1JE

If you are still dissatisfied with the Council's response after the Internal Review you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF.
Telephone: 01625 545 700
Website: www.ico.gov.uk

We will now close your request as of this date.

Yours sincerely

Information Compliance Officer