

The Electoral Commission

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Your reference: PG/3553/003/MM

7 December 2018

Dear Sirs,

In the proposed claim between Good Law Project Ltd & Ben Bradshaw MP and the Electoral Commission

Thank you for your letter dated 28 November 2018 the contents of which are noted.

Our position remains as stated in our letter dated 19 October 2018. The information that was provided to your client under cover of that letter was provided for the purpose of responding properly to your client's pre-action protocol letter. We are satisfied that all of the information provided - including the information that you refer to regarding the CRC - is otherwise subject to the restriction on disclosure of information by the Commission under section 71E Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). Whilst we did not suggest that your client is subject to the above restriction, our letter made clear that the information was provided in the expectation that it should only be used for the purpose for which it was provided. Whilst ultimately a matter for your client we maintain that position.

We would also observe that the Transparency of Donations and Loans (Northern Ireland Political Parties) Order 2018 specifically provides for the publication of information about donations and loans received by political parties in Northern Ireland from July 2017 onwards. Parliament could have, but did not, provide for the publication of information that preceded this date. The Commission has repeatedly called for legislation to enable the publication of such information prior to July 2017 and we continue to call for the law in this area to be changed.

Yours faithfully

P.P. 

Louise Footner
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