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REFERENCE: 16FOI 60

You requested the following information:-

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act. I am looking for information about civil servants campaigning during the EU referendum.

It is my understanding that senior civil servants in the 'politically restricted' category are not allowed to actively campaign for either side during the EU referendum outside of work. More junior civil servants outside of the 'politically restricted' category must seek permission from the department if they wish to campaign for either side during the EU referendum. I have reproduced guidance from the civil service management code underneath this email.

With this in mind, I would like to know:

- a) Whether any civil servants in the Cabinet Office have been disciplined as a result of participating in campaigning for the EU referendum either because their job falls into the 'politically restricted' category, or because they have not sought permission from the department? If so, how many and, if possible, please can you provide some background explaining what happened in each case where a civil servant was disciplined?
- b) How many civil servants in the department have actively sought permission to campaign for either side during the EU referendum? Please could you provide details stating what side they sought permission to campaign for and whether or not their request was accepted.
- c) How many civil servants has the department actively given advice to – outside of the guidance published in the civil service management code on the internet – on the rules regarding their ability to campaign for either side during the EU referendum?

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

a). No.

b). None.

c). None.