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date 26 March 2007

Freedom of Information Act request on electronic counting pilot

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please supply me with the following information with respect to the May 2007 Bedford Borough e-counting pilot:

- Details of the technologies used for e-counting, and their supplier
- Procedures for e-counting
- Procedures for managing any dispute of the e-counting results
- Procedures to manage equipment failure
- Criteria by which a re-count will be performed
- Evaluation plans and criteria by which the e-voting pilot will be judged to have been a success
- Minutes of meetings where e-counting was discussed, including, but not limited to meetings between councillors, the elections office, the Department of Constitutional Affairs and vendors.
- Any justification of how the accuracy and secrecy of the e-counting process will be assured, and/or any security evaluation
- Any evaluation of the benefits, cost or otherwise, of e-counting
- Any objections raised against e-counting
- Any other information relevant to e-counting in the May 2007 elections

[continued overleaf]

Please include copies of material which you hold in the form of paper and electronic records, including emails.

I would be grateful if you would supply this information in the form of an email, unless the total size is greater than 10 MB, in which case CD-ROM would be preferable. If you are not able to provide the information in this format, then please explain why, when you provide the information in another format.

If you decide to withhold any of the information requested, please clearly explain why you have done so in your response, by reference to the legislation. If your decision to withhold is based upon an evaluation of the public interest then please clearly explain which public interests you have considered and why you have decided that the public interest in maintaining the exception(s) outweighs the public interest in releasing the information.

If you are proposing to make a charge for providing the information requested then please provide full details in advance together with an explanation of any proposed charge.

I look forward to hearing from you promptly, as required by the legislation, and in any case within 20 working days.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. If you require any clarification of this request, please contact me as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Steven J. Murdoch