



8 September 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Response

Query

On 12 August 2021, the following request was made of Moulton Parish Council:

Disclose all the mails councillors sent to the country council trying to stop the election from happening.

Response

In answering your query, Moulton Parish Council have made the following assumptions:

- The term “country council” refers to the unitary authority, Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- The term “election” refers to the recently announced by-election for the vacancy of Parish Councillor on Moulton Parish Council.

To address this query, every councillor was ordered to disclose any mails that they had sent to Cheshire West and Chester Council, and they were reviewed by the Data Protection Officer.

The vacancy was caused by a resignation of a councillor in July 2021. A by-election can be called if ten or more electors request one by writing to the Returning Officer at the Unitary Authority within fourteen days of the casual vacancy being announced. Cheshire West and Chester Council confirmed that such a request was received and a by-election was legally required to be run. The parish council, or the councillors, cannot stop an election from occurring once it has been called.

On review of the material gathered from the councillors, not a single e-mail was sent from the parish councillors to attempt to do so.