

**HOUSE OF LORDS  
APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION**

Room G/39, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ  
General Enquiries: 07872 828699  
Internet: <http://lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk>  
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<REDACTED>

by e-mail only

Ref 406

27/3/2017

Dear <REDACTED>

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Request and the Conference paper from the ICO which I read with much interest.

2. You specifically asked:

*Do you keep a set of data, electronic or otherwise, of possible independent members of the House of Lords and those nominated by political parties, whether they are appointed or not? (I am not asking for any personal information.)*

3. Membership of the House of Lords is either:

- by self-nomination (to become a non-party-political peer)  
or
- by a nomination from the Prime Minister on behalf of the political parties (to become a working party-political peer).

4. HOLAC does not maintain data on "possible" candidates for either party-political or non-party-political peers.

5. The only data that the Commission holds is either:

- provided by the candidate who self-nominates and upon whom the Commission undertakes vetting for propriety after undertaking a sift to identify the strongest candidates to call for interview.  
or

- from the political party nominating a specific person(s) after it has had discussions with the Prime Minister about nominations to the House of Lords.

6. In all cases a consent form is signed details of which are set out below.

*Whether or not you keep a data set, what forms of research or other work do you carry out to identify those who might be selected or who have been nominated?*

*What sources of data do you use to carry out this research and which of these are, or are not, in the public domain? If you use public domain sources, do you use sources of data which are established for other regulatory or statutory purposes, e.g. Companies House, the Land Registry, professional directories, Who's Who etc.*

*If you use the kinds of data identified in question 3 what steps do you take to ensure that your processing of such data is not in breach of Principle 2 of the Data Protection Act 1998 regarding the use of data provided for purposes other than those for which you are processing the data?*

*Do you use Internet search engines to carry out research? (An earlier Fol suggests you do, but do you still do this).*

7. No work is undertaken to identify any individuals for possible membership of the House of Lords so therefore no data is kept.

8. HOLAC undertakes vetting for propriety for those candidates the Commission wishes to recommend for a non-party-political peerage and for those nominated by Prime Minister on behalf of the political parties. Details of the vetting that we undertake is set out at <http://ordsappointments.independent.gov.uk/vetting-for-propriety.aspx>

9. Our website says that we will undertake a media check and we use the internet for that.

*What steps you take to ensure that those whose data is being processed by yourselves are aware that it is being processed in order to comply with Principle 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998?*

10. In addition to the information publicly available on our website, HOLAC requires all nominees for both party-political and non-party-political peerages to sign a declaration and consent form, part of which states:

*I give my consent to the release of information included in my nomination form to enable further enquiries to be made by the Appointments Commission in relation to my nomination. This*

*Members: Lord Hart of Chilton, Rt. Hon. Lord Howard of Lympne QC, Rt. Hon. Lord Kakkar (Chairman), Lord Low of Dalston, Professor Gillian Peele, Sir Malcolm Ross, Baroness Scott of Needham Market*

*includes: inquiries made of Government departments and agencies; the taking up of references; approaches to other individuals or organisations supporting my nomination; and any other relevant inquiries"*

11. Elsewhere in our Nomination and Assessment information pack, paragraphs 30 and 31 state:

*The Commission is charged with vetting nominations for life peerages to ensure nominees have upheld the highest standards of propriety.*

*The Commission will wish to be satisfied amongst other things, nominees are not, and never have been, a threat to the national security of the United Kingdom or any other country, that they have complied, in a straightforward way, with their obligations in relation to taxation and the receipt of benefits, and that there are no serious doubts about their integrity in relation to their working life. The Commission expects nominees to be resident in the United Kingdom for tax purposes and to accept the requirement to remain so.*

12. HOLAC believes that this is all fully compliant with Principle 1 of the DPA in that the personal information it holds on nominees is processed fairly, transparently and lawfully. The consent form and description of the vetting process sets out our purpose in accordance with Principle 2 and forms the basis of our privacy notice to those individuals whose data we are processing.

13. If you are unhappy with the reply to your Freedom of Information may write to Peter Lawrence OBE, Secretary to the Commission to ask for an internal review. We will not normally accept a request for an internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

14. If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply direct to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

15. The Information Commission can be contacted at:

Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

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