

UNCLASSIFIED

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

Room G/07, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ

General Enquiries: 020 7271 0848

Internet: <http://lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk>

E-mail: enquiry@lordsappointments.gsi.gov.uk

18 September 2013

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – [REDACTED]

I am writing further to your request of 22 August for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked for information about:

- 1) The number of applications for peerages received in total by the Commission in each year since 2010;
- 2) How many of these applicants were called for interview in each year since 2010;
- 3) The full names of all those people called to interview in each year since 2010;
- 4) The number of applications received by the Commission from disabled people in each year since 2010;
- 5) How many of these applicants were called for interview in each year since 2010;
- 6) The number of applications received by the Commission from people from ethnic minorities in each year since 2010;
- 7) How many of these applicants were called for interview in each year since 2010;
- 8) The number of applications received by the Commission from women in each year since 2010;
- 9) How many of these applicants were called for interview in each year since 2010;
- 10) The number of applications received by the Commission from gay, lesbian or bisexual people in each year since 2010; and
- 11) How many of these applicants were called for interview in each year since 2010.

I can confirm that the House of Lords Appointments Commission does hold some of the information you request. Information answering questions 1, 4, 6 and 8 is contained in the table set out in Annex A.

In relation to question 10, the House of Lords Appointments Commission started collecting data on the sexual orientation of applicants in June 2012. We therefore do not hold this information for prior to this date. The information we do hold is also set out in Annex A.

During the time period you specify, the Commission updated its IT systems. This means that information is held in several different sources. I have collated this information and all figures provided are to the best of our knowledge.

The Commission does not hold information answering questions 2, 5, 7, 9 and 11. This is because the Commission considers nominations on a rolling basis, in some cases over an extended period of time.

However, I can tell you the number of interviews held in each year since 2010 and the diversity information you have requested relating to these. This information is not what you asked for, as interviews may not be held in the same year that individuals submit their nomination, but it is being provided voluntarily, outside of the FOIA, for your assistance. This information is set out in Annex B.

Diversity information is collected on a voluntary basis. Therefore, the figures in both annexes only include those applicants who chose to provide this information.

The information you have requested in question 3 is exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) of the Act by virtue of Section 40(3) (a)(i), as it constitutes personal data disclosure of which would contravene the data protection principles.

If you are unhappy with this response to your request, you may write to the Secretary to the Commission, Clare Salters, to ask for an internal review. If you are not then content with her reply, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow

Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Millington
Commission Secretariat

Annex A

Applications received by the Commission

	2010	2011	2012	2013 (as of end August)
Total Applications	118	108	90	57
- Disabled	11	6	10	6
- Ethnic Minority	30	21	15	10
- Women	27	28	24	11
- Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual	Information not held*	Information not held*	0* (Information only collected from June)	2

*Forms collecting information on sexual orientation only started being used in June 2012.

Annex B

Interviews conducted by the Commission

	2010	2011	2012	2013 (as of end August)
Total Interviews	7	14	15	0
- Disabled	0	1	1	N/A
- Ethnic Minority	1	2	1	N/A
- Women	3	5	7	N/A
- Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual	Information not held	Information not held	Information not held*	N/A

*Forms collecting information on sexual orientation only started being used in June 2012. The individuals interviewed in 2012 all applied using the old form, and so information on their sexual orientation was not collected.

