

**HOUSE OF LORDS
APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION**

Room G/40, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ
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Ref: HOLAC FOI
2020/8

16 October 2020

By email: <REDACTED>

Freedom of Information Act

I am replying to your Freedom of Information request, which the House of Lords Appointments Commission (HOLAC) received on 18 September 2020.

You asked:

I'd like to make a freedom of information request to see minutes from the House of Lords appointments commission (HOLAC). I'm interested in the meetings which took place this year on the following dates:

11 February

17 March

27 May

22 July

3 August

The information requested falls under section 22(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 22(1) protects information intended for future publication. Section 22 is a qualified exemption and I have considered whether the balance of the public interest favours maintaining the exemption. The Act recognises the desirability of information being freely available but acknowledges that there must be some freedom for organisations to determine their own publication timetables, which allows for the necessary preparation and administration to take place. The exemption of Section 22 requires HOLAC to weigh the interests of the public in the context of timing of publication. The public interest against disclosure is that HOLAC is independent of the Government and therefore has some discretion to determine its preferred publication timetable and format for releasing information about its work.

The public interest in favour of immediate disclosure is to give members of the public information about the work carried out by the Commission at a time they ask for that information.

There is a firm intention to publish details of the outcome of each individual meeting that you list in the near future. We have therefore concluded that the public interest is best served by withholding the information.

If you are unhappy with this response to your request, you may write to the Secretary to the Commission, Alison Bennett, to ask for an internal review by another person not involved with this request. Please note that we will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by HOLAC.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Secretariat to the House of Lords Appointments Commission