

HOUSE OF LORDS
APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION
Room G/38, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ
General Enquiries: 07872 828699
Internet: <http://lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk>
E-mail: enquiry@lordsappointments.gov.uk

Ref: HOLAC FOI 2023/3

11 May 2023

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I am replying to your Freedom of Information request, which the House of Lords Appointments Commission (the Commission) received on 13 April 2023.

You asked:

- 1) what number/percentage of the approx. 5,600 applications received to date were from individuals between the ages of 21-35?*
- 2) of the 74 appointments made to date, how many fell within the above mentioned age range at the time of appointment?*
- 3) has the Commission ever done any work on (such as mentions in its regular reports or discussion during its meetings) or considered the need for greater age diversity in the HoL?*

We are writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, we have established that the information you requested is held by the House of Lords Appointments Commission.

Of the approximately 5,600 applications received since 2000, the Commission has received 85 applications from individuals aged between 21-35 (inclusive), making up approximately 1.5% of the total applicants.

In regards to 2), we do not hold any collated data on the ages of appointments made by the Commission, however the list of all appointments can be found on the HOLAC website (<https://lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk/appointments>). This is therefore considered to be reasonably accessible by other means under section 21

of the Freedom of Information Act (information reasonably accessible by other means).

For 3), the Commission seeks to make appointments to the independent cross benches that will add to the breadth, experience and expertise that already exists within the House of Lords, and help to ensure the House fully represents diversity within our country.

The HOLAC annual reports and published meeting notes (since 2012) are available on the website (<https://lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk/commissionreports>), and therefore their contents are considered to be reasonably accessible by other means under section 21 of the FOI Act. Additionally, information relating to any discussion on greater age diversity that is not in the public domain is being withheld under section Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 12 relieves public authorities of the duty to comply with a request for information if the cost of dealing with it would exceed the appropriate limit.

The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for the central Government this is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3 1/2 working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it, below the appropriate limit. The work necessary to locate and assess all the not for publication meeting notes since 2000, as well as any additional correspondence that could potentially reference greater age diversity, would exceed the cost of compliance as calculated by staff time costs under Section 12. In relation to question 3), aside from the publicly available information mentioned above, your request is therefore refused under that section of the Act.

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

Yours sincerely,

Secretariat to the House of Lords Appointments Commission