

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 2023/4

19 June 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 30 May 2023.

You asked:

I would like to know the following information in regards to the appointment of individuals to the Commission:

1. How are members of the Commission chosen and appointed (if possible, as in much detail)?

2. Do members of the Commission have to be members of the House of Lords?

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

The House of Lords Appointments Commission is made up of seven members (though one independent seat is currently vacant), including the chair. Three members are appointed to represent the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties, while the remaining members, including the chair, are independent of Government and political parties.

For the political members, the leaders of each party will propose a candidate who will then be approved by the Prime Minister. The Commission is not involved in this process.

The independent members, including the chair, are appointed following a fair and open competition process which is conducted in accordance with the Governance Code on Public Appointments¹. This process is overseen by the Cabinet Office, as the sponsor department for the Commission.

In regards to 2), Under the 1998 White Paper which established HOLAC, the three main political parties are invited to nominate a member, and [by convention] these members are currently from the House of Lords.

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

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