

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

Ref: HOLAC FOI 2023/5

10 July 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 12 June 2023.

You asked:

Can you please provide the list of peerages proposed by Boris Johnson, including the names of those who were accepted and the names of those who were rejected?

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.

The information that you have requested falls within section 37(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act, which relates to the conferral of honours and dignities. A peerage is a dignity for the purposes of the Act. Section 37 is a qualified exemption which is subject to a public interest test. In favour of disclosing information, there is a strong public interest in knowing that the appointments process is accountable and transparent, and in maintaining public confidence in the system. In favour of maintaining the exemption, there is a strong public interest in protecting the confidentiality of the consideration of individual nominees. Given this, we judge that the balance of public interest favours disclosure of the overall figures for such lists, but not the names of individuals.

For the purposes of this response, 'the list' is understood to mean Boris Johnson's resignation peerage list, published 9 June 2023. The Commission is an advisory body whose role is to vet nominations for life peers and provide advice to the PM; it does not have a veto. For this list, the Commission was able to provide its support to 8 individuals and was unable to provide its support to a further 8 individuals.

Additionally, we are not obliged, under section 40(2) of the Act, to provide information that is the personal information of another person if releasing it would contravene any of the provisions in the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). In this instance we believe that the release of this information would contravene the first data protection principle and therefore section 40 (2) is engaged. The terms of this exemption in the Freedom of Information Act mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for you to have 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

Yours sincerely,

Secretariat to the House of Lords Appointments Commission