

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 2023/19

23 August 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 20 February 2023.

You requested:

- 1) *all details of communications between HOLAC, including its committee members past and present, and Awards Intelligence (AI) and Bayleaf Honours (BH).*

Please provide all details of communications from 2015-present. Details of communications may include (but not be limited to):

- *Dates of any meetings (in-person or virtual with AI or BH representatives) and/ or phone calls.*
- *Minutes of these meetings and /or calls.*
- *Copies of email correspondence.*
- *Copies of letters.*

- 2) *The number of applications submitted to your committee since 2015 on behalf of candidates by a) Awards Intelligence, b) Bayleaf Honours and c) any other third party on behalf of persons wishing to apply become Crossbench Members of the House of Lords.*

Please could you state the number of applications entered by these third parties that were successful?

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 not held by the House of Lords Appointments Commission.

HOLAC has had no direct contact of which the Commission is aware of either Awards Intelligence or Bayleaf Honours. Awards Intelligence is a company that offers application advice to people considering applying through the crossbench application process. As a peerage is a job, anyone considering applying would be required to submit their own application, and therefore HOLAC would not have any interaction with them. Bayleaf Honours appears to deal strictly with the award of honours, whereas the Commission's work is focused around peerage appointments.

The HOLAC secretariat does not hold a record of the personal correspondence of the Commission members, either past or present, and therefore any information of this nature is also not held.

Specifically for 2), as suggested above, third parties are unable to submit applications on behalf of an individual, and as such we have received zero such applications. For further detail on information provided by these companies, we would advise that you contact them directly.

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