

**HOUSE OF LORDS**  
**APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION**  
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**Ref: HOLAC FOI 2024/13**

23 September 2024

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 4 September 2024.

You asked:

*“What is the reason that Baroness Owen of Alderley Edge was ennobled?”*

Firstly, we would like to highlight that the Commission does not believe the above question clearly sets out what information that you would like provided. The Commission wrote to you providing some context around the request and asking for you to confirm specifically what information you required, but did not receive any such clarification.

The reason that Baroness Owen was awarded her peerage was that she was nominated as part of a Prime Ministerial Resignation List. It is a long-standing convention that outgoing Prime Ministers can draw up a ‘Dissolution’ or ‘Resignation’ List, dating back to the 19th Century and throughout the 20th Century. It is customary for the incumbent Prime Minister to forward the former Prime Minister’s list to the Sovereign for approval, following the appropriate vetting by the House of Lords Appointments Commission. The Commission does not have any input into who is selected on such a list, nor the suitability of any such individuals, and its remit is strictly limited to vetting proposed individuals on the grounds of propriety. In the case of resignation lists, the reasons for nominating an individual are solely a matter for the outgoing Prime Minister.

The Commission is provided with a citation for each nominee that outlines their experience and career history, but this is for informational purposes to support the Commission’s vetting process and cannot be treated as setting out the reason for their selection. It is the Commission’s view that *the reason* for her ennoblement is solely a matter for the former Prime Minister who nominated her, and therefore not

something that is held by the Commission. We therefore confirm that the Commission does not hold information in scope of your request.

We would further like to highlight that the Commission has responded to a number of previous requests (which can be located on the [FOI page](#) of the Commission's website) which have asked for specific information on the vetting of Baroness Owen. For the avoidance of doubt, in such cases where the Commission did feel we held information in scope of similar requests, we have clearly set out why we felt that information was exempt from disclosure.

If you are unhappy with this response to your request, you may write to the Secretary to the Commission 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 the Commission.

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**