

HOUSE OF LORDS
APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION
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E-mail: enquiry@lordsappointments.gov.uk

Ref: HOLAC FOI 2024/17

13 January 2025

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 11 October 2024.

You asked:

In view of the recent tribunal decision in Rosenbaum:

<https://caselaw.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukftt/grc/2024/1132>

I now remake my earlier FOIA request dated 15 April 2024 [HOLAC [FOI2024/8](#)], de novo.

Your previous request asked for:

“copies of all information held by HOLAC on and occasioned by Mr Littlewood's nomination.”

The decision notice you have highlighted asked the Commission to “disclose a copy of the citations relating to *The Rt Hon the Baron Kempell of Letchworth ... and the Rt Hon the Baroness Owen of Alderley Edge*”. These were two individuals who the Commission carried out vetting for, and who subsequently took their seats in the House of Lords. The decision notice did not ask the Commission to release any information regarding the vetting of these two individuals, beyond what was included in the citations provided for them.

The information you have requested relates to an individual for whom the Commission is unable to confirm or deny whether vetting was carried out, and who has not been appointed to sit in the House of Lords. The arguments as to whether the Commission should first confirm whether an individual was vetted by the Commission, and secondly provide that information, are not the same as those in the case you have highlighted. The public interest arguments would also differ

significantly, given that, unlike Baroness Owen and Lord Kempself, Mr Littlewood does not currently sit in the House of Lords.

It is therefore our position that your request is not fundamentally different to the one you previously submitted, and the arguments for refusal remain the same as outlined in our response to FOI2024/8 and the subsequent [IR2024/2](#). Your request is therefore refused under section 14(2) of FOIA, which applies when a public authority has previously provided the same requester with the information in response to an earlier FOI request.

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