

# HOUSE OF LORDS

## APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

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[To party leaders]

By email

22 January 2026

### Information provided for vetting

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Chair of the independent House of Lords Appointments Commission (HOLAC) to set out the Commission's expectations of the information we receive when vetting political peerage appointments. I have written to the Leaders of the three largest political parties, and a copy of this letter has been published on the Commission's website.

Like my predecessor, I have previously written<sup>12</sup> to emphasise the need for Party Leaders to carefully consider who they put forward, in terms of their suitability (which is not within HOLAC's remit), their propriety and adherence to the Nolan Principles. The nominated individuals will represent your political party, and their selection will reflect on you personally, hence it is the expectation that any individual put forward to the Commission will have already been subjected to robust internal vetting procedures.

HOLAC receives a signed consent form and propriety declaration from the nominee themselves, a declaration on the nominee's propriety from the relevant Party Chair and a citation summarising the individual's experience. The Commission's vetting checks, including government agency checks and media searches, are a snapshot taken at the time of the request. They reflect information available at that time, which is then considered in order to provide confidential advice to party leaders and ultimately the Prime Minister on the propriety of the proposed nominee(s). It is not within our gift to veto or postpone an individual's appointment, which is solely a matter for the Prime Minister, and the Commission plays no role in the process after our advice has been provided.

The Commission will not comment on the vetting of any individuals, with the exception of writing to the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee in cases where the Prime Minister chooses to proceed with a nomination that the Commission has been unable to support. With the above in mind, it is vital that the Commission be given any relevant information at the point an individual is nominated, or that comes to light prior to the provision of the Commission's advice, both from the Party and the individual. This should include all information that may relate to their propriety, including any information

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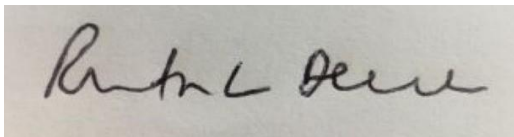
<sup>1</sup><https://lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/2022-10-11-HOLAC-Letter-to-party-leaders-.pdf>

<sup>2</sup><https://lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2024-03-26-Chair-of-HOLAC-to-party-leaders-new-forms-and-propiety.pdf>

held by the Party or the individual that is not in the public domain. This will ensure that the Commission can provide comprehensive advice based on a full assessment of the facts.

The Commission's secretariat would be happy to discuss any issues with your office if helpful. Please contact [enquiry@lordsappointments.gov.uk](mailto:enquiry@lordsappointments.gov.uk) or 07355 021 584.

Regards,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in dark ink. The signature appears to be 'Ruth L Owen' written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Chair, House of Lords Appointments Commission**