

**HOUSE OF LORDS
APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION**

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Internet: <http://lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk>

E-mail: enquiry@lordsappointments.gov.uk

Ref: HOLAC FOI 2026/2

23 February 2025

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Ref: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I am replying to your Freedom of Information request, which the House of Lords Appointments Commission (HOLAC) received on 12 February 2026.

You asked:

- 1) *Whether departmental policy, contractual terms or internal procedures require an explicit outcome based warranty or guarantee confirming that personal data has been rendered irretrievable through software based erasure, whether carried out internally or by an external provider.*
- 2) *Where software based data destruction is performed internally, what recorded evidential assurance does the department rely upon to conclude that the final data state is irretrievable?*
- 3) *Where software based data destruction is performed by a third party provider, does the department hold recorded information demonstrating that any warranty or assurance provided explicitly extends to the software erasure method used and its claimed effectiveness? If so, please confirm the recorded nature of that verification.*
- 4) *Where no explicit outcome based warranty is required or provided, what recorded form of evidential assurance does the department rely upon to conclude that software based erasure has rendered personal data irretrievable?*

Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOIA"). I can confirm that HOLAC does not hold the information you requested.

HOLAC does not have direct responsibility for the provision of its IT services. The IT systems used by the Secretariat supporting the Commission are provided by the Cabinet Office. Should you wish to ask the Cabinet Office about its IT services, you can do so by contacting the FOI Team at foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk .

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 HOLAC.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Secretariat to the House of Lords Appointments Commission