

**HOUSE OF LORDS
APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION**

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Ref: HOLAC FOI 2021/3

19 January 2021

By email: <REDACTED>

Freedom of Information Act

I am replying to your Freedom of Information request, which the House of Lords Appointments Commission (HOLAC) received on 4 January 2021.

You asked:

Under the FOI Act I would like copies of all emails sent from your office to the Cabinet Office during the last 3 months.

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is held by the Commission.

The information requested is being withheld under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 12 of the Act relieves public authorities of the duty to comply with a request for information if the cost of dealing with it would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government this is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Commission holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it, below the appropriate limit.

HOLAC is an independent body that is separate from both the Government and the Cabinet Office. However, Secretariat support to the Commission is provided by Cabinet Office staff drawn from the Honours and Appointments Secretariat, which works directly to HOLAC. As such the volume of emails between the House of Lords Commission inbox and the Cabinet Office is extremely high.

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