

HOUSE OF LORDS
APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION
Room G/38, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ
General Enquiries: 07872 828699
Internet: <http://lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk>
E-mail: enquiry@lordsappointments.gov.uk

Ref: HOLAC FOI2022/15

14 July 2022

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 22 June 2022, and further clarified also on 22 June.

You asked:

For each of the years 2010 to 2021, and for 2022 up until April 11, please can you say how many political nominations there have been for life peerages?

For each of the years 2010 to 2021, and for 2022 up until April 11, please can you say how many political nominations (party political) for life peerages the Commission has been notified of/vetted for propriety?

We are writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, we have established that the information you requested is partially held by the House of Lords Appointments Commission.

All of the information that you have requested falls within section 37(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act, which relates to the conferral of honours and dignities. A peerage is a dignity for the purposes of the Act. Section 37 is a qualified exemption which is subject to a public interest test. In favour of disclosing information, there is a strong public interest in knowing that the appointments process is accountable and transparent, and in maintaining public confidence in the system. In favour of maintaining the exemption, there is a strong public interest in protecting the confidentiality of the consideration of individual nominees. We judge that the balance of public interest favours disclosure of overall figures. To protect the confidentiality of the Commission's discussions and the confidentiality of candidates' personal data -

and in line with standard practice - the Commission is not disclosing annual figures of fewer than five people.

With regards to question 1, we have interpreted 'political nominations' as relating to nominations which were put forward through political means, or in other words, by a political party leader outside of the crossbench application process which the Commission also manages. This includes non-affiliated nominations and Prime Minister's crossbench exception nominations. Information is not held in relation to 2010-2012 and limited information is available for 2012.

Year	Total political nominations to HOLAC
2010	Information not held
2011	Information not held
2012	<5
2013	34
2014	28
2015	52
2016	18
2017	8
2018	19
2019	23
2020	70
2021	<5
2022 (to April)	<5

With regards to question 2, we have interpreted your question as relating only to party political data. Information is not held in relation to 2010-2012 and limited information is available for 2012.

Year	Conservative	Labour	DUP	Green	Lib Dem
2010	Information not held				
2011	Information not held				
2012	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
2013	17	5	<5	<5	10
2014	12	<5	<5	<5	6
2015	39	<5	<5	<5	12

2016	16	<5	<5	<5	<5
2017	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
2018	10	5	<5	<5	<5
2019	11	<5	<5	<5	<5
2020	37	17	<5	<5	<5
2021	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
2022 (to April)	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5

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