

**HOUSE OF LORDS**  
**APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION**  
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Ref: HOLAC FOI2022/16

14/07/2022

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 26 June 2022.

You asked:

*This is a request for aggregated data on the vetting of political nominees for life peerages since the creation of the House of Lords Appointments Commission (HOLAC) in May 2000, broken down by prime minister.*

*Please provide the data in the form of a spreadsheet following [this template](#) (please do not copy the tables into a PDF or word file for your response).*

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.

We consider that Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act applies to the entirety of your request. Section 12 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 public authorities this is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2 1/2 working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it, below the appropriate limit. The work necessary to ascertain the answers to the questions you pose is prohibitively time-consuming as the information is not held in the form that you request. Within our records, information regarding peerage nominations is not categorised by the Prime Minister who submitted a nomination, nor do we track information broken down in the categories you have requested. In FOI terms answering this question would exceed the cost of compliance

as calculated by staff time costs under Section 12. Your request is therefore refused under that section of the Act.

Additionally, some of this information is likely not held. HOLAC routinely destroys vetting information on candidates in line with our data retention policies.

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**