**From:** FOI
**Sent:** 14 January 2022 19:01
**To:** [redacted]
**Subject:** FOI 148-21 - Response

Dear [redacted]

**Our Ref: FOI-148-21**

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 17/12/2021.

The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly and has done so within the statutory timeframe of twenty working days.

Your request is in bold below followed by our response.

**Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide me with copies of:**

**All emails, letters, and any other written communication between the Electoral Commission, the House of Lords Appointments Commission, and any other public body concerning Evgeny Lebedev, dating between February 2020 and August 2020.**

**I understand that under the Act I am entitled to a response within 20 working days of your receipt of this request. Some parts of the request may be easier to answer than others. Should this be the case, I request that you release information as soon as possible.**

**If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the Act. I will also expect you to release all non-exempt material. I reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to charge excessive fees**

Following a request from us for clarification you advised that:

*My enquiry is into an investigation the Electoral Commission has conducted relating to Evgeny Lebedev's nomination to the House of Lords. The House of Lords Appointments Commission checks nominees' propriety with, among other government departments and agencies, the Electoral Commission.*

You also narrowed the scope of your request by clarifying that by ‘any other public body’ you meant the Home Office or Cabinet Office.

Our response is as follows:

**We do not hold the information you have requested.**

The Commission has not conducted any investigation relating to Evgeny Lebedev's nomination to the House of Lords. The Commission's remit does not include such matters and we would have no scope for such an investigation. We do not hold any communications with the House of Lords Appointments Commission, Cabinet Office or the Home Office relating to Mr Lebedev within the scope of your request.

The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority and I trust that this information satisfies your request.
If you are not satisfied with this response, please note that the Commission operates a review procedure, details of which can be found on the Commission website at:
www.electoralcommission.org.uk/freedom-information/make-a-freedom-information-request

Please also note that if you have exhausted all internal Commission review procedures and you are still not satisfied you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner. Details of this procedure can be found on the ICO website: https://ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

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