

[REDACTED]

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**From:** FOI  
**Sent:** 21 March 2022 15:03  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FOI 021-22 - Response

Dear [REDACTED],

**Our Ref: FOI-021-22**

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 2 March 2022.

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 shown below followed by our response.

*I am concerned to hear of Conservative ties to Oligarch funding and that Boris Johnson has personally met with several people and even appointed the son of an Oligarch into the House of Lords.*

*The New York Times is a very reputable source and not the only one to speak on such things, but I will provide this here for reference: <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/01/world/europe/ukraine-russia-oligarchs-uk.html>*

*Where this has already been investigated, I would like to see the findings/full report under the FOIA. Where this has not yet been investigated, this is a huge matter of concern and should be investigated with police involvement.*

*Considering the dragging of feet to sanction Oligarchs, giving 18 months for them to sell their assets, I am concerned at what corruption may be occurring.*

*If there is evidence of this occurring in other parties, this too should be investigated.*

*Please could you let me know if you will be investigating this matter and what the scope of this will be: E.g. funding only, actions, giving people power, and so on. I feel this is of the utmost importance given the current climate.*

**Our response is as follows:**

We do not hold the information you have requested.

I understand your request to be for the findings/full report of any investigation the Commission has conducted into:

- Conservative ties to Oligarch funding
- Boris Johnson personally meeting with several people; and
- Boris Johnson appointing the son of an Oligarch into the House of Lords.

The Commission's remit is the regulation of specific political finance law, rather than a broad remit of general conduct.

All parties and campaigners can accept donations only from 'permissible' donors. Permissibility is defined in the Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000. For example individuals must appear on a UK electoral register, and companies must be registered with UK Companies House and be carrying on business in the UK. Where a donor meets the relevant criteria, the donation is lawful. All donations reported to us can also be seen on our website [here](#).

Parties and campaigners are required to check that a donor meets the permissibility requirements before accepting any donation, and the Commission conducts its own checks on donations reported to us. Where we have reasonable grounds to suspect that a particular donation has been accepted from an impermissible donor, we may investigate this. We have powers to impose penalties on parties and campaigners, and to seek forfeiture of the value of relevant donations. We publish the outcome of our investigations on our website [here](#).

It is not within our remit to investigate the more conceptual situations you describe, such as ties between a party and particular donors, or meetings. Nor is it within our scope to investigate the circumstances surrounding appointments to the House of Lords. Therefore we do not hold any information relevant to your request.

We have also considered your request for an investigation in line with our [Enforcement Policy](#) and, for the reasons above, will not be opening an investigation.

The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority. 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: <https://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

Information Officer  
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**The Electoral Commission**  
[electoralcommission.org.uk](http://electoralcommission.org.uk)