
Honours and Appointments Secretariat

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By e-mail to Michael McCarthy

15 June 2009

Dear Mr McCarthy,

Cabinet Office Reference: FOI 265282

I refer to your request of 14 May 2009 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') for information about the forfeiture committee, Lord Taylor of Blackburn and Lord Truscott.

The Act provides the applicant with an access right to recorded information held by public authorities (in this case the Cabinet Office). A 'valid' request under the Act is therefore one that asks for recorded information held by the Cabinet Office and not one that seeks answers to questions. Your email of 14 May consists of a question which is not a request for recorded information. Outside our obligations under the Act I have tried to provide an answer to your question.

You asked: 'I'd like to know if the honours forfeiture committee chaired by Sir Gus O'Donnell has any plans to meet to consider removing [Lord Taylor and Lord Truscott's] titles.'

This is a question.

I refer to your Freedom of Information request of 23 April 2009 and my response to you of 20 May 2009 where I stated that the process for the grant of life peerages is different from honours and there is no automatic process to remove a life peerage. This would require an Act of Parliament. The Honours Forfeiture Committee would not be involved in the case of a life peer.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Sue Gray
Director
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

email: foiteam@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

You should note that the Cabinet Office 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 Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely



Marion Moore
Honours and Appointments Policy Officer