



## Information Requests

County Hall  
B2S  
The Crescent  
Taunton  
TA1 4DY  
Reference: 9891265

5 September 2022

Dear Requester

### Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information. We have processed your request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

An additional request identical to the one shown in this response was received by the Lord Lieutenants Office This was forwarded to The Freedom of Information Team as the Lord Lieutenants Office is part of Somerset County Council so has been dealt with in the response below.

### Your Request:

A new Lord Lieutenant for Somerset was appointed on the 1st of August 2022.

1. Please disclose all communications between the Lord Lieutenant's Office and Somerset County Council (both ways) for a period of 12 months before and up to the 1st of August 2022.

2a. Did any correspondence between the Lord Lieutenant's Office and Somerset County Council (both ways) in that period relate to Mr Mohammed Saddiq as a potential candidate for the post of Lord Lieutenant for Somerset?

2b. Were views (formally or informally) sought from Somerset County Council by the Lord Lieutenant's Office on the suitability of Mr Mohammed Saddiq for the post of Lord Lieutenant for Somerset? If so, what views were expressed by Somerset County Council (formally or informally)?

2c. Who (Officers and Councillors) in Somerset County Council were internally consulted (formally or informally) on the potential appointment of Mr

Mohammed Saddiq as a candidate for the post of Lord Lieutenant for Somerset?

### Our Response:

The Lord-Lieutenant's Office was **not involved in the appointment process**, only the administration.

We **do not hold** any correspondence with local MPs as this element of the consultation was carried out by Richard Tilbrook, the PMs Appointment's Secretary.

Chairs were invited to write Responses these went direct to Mr Richard Tilbrook The PM's Appointments Secretary.

Chief Executives and Leaders were invited to meet. (Not all took up the invitation).

copies of both standard letters are attached

Councillors consulted are shown below.

<u>Group - Councils</u>			<u>Write</u>	<u>Invite</u>
Mr Nigel Taylor	Chair	Somerset County Council	ü	
Councillor Lisa O'Brien	Chair	Bath & North East Somerset Council	ü	
Councillor Richard Westwood	Chair	North Somerset Council	ü	
Mr Patrick Flaherty	Chief Executive	Somerset County Council		ü
Will Godfrey	Chief Executive	Bath & North East Somerset Council		ü
Mrs Jo Walker	Chief Executive	North Somerset Council		ü
Councillor David Fothergill	Leader	Somerset County Council		ü
Councillor Kevin Guy	Leader	Bath & North East Somerset Council		ü
Councillor Don Davies	Leader	North Somerset Council		ü

MPs consulted are listed below

Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger MP ( <a href="#">Bridgwater</a> )
Mr David Warburton MP ( <a href="#">Somerton and Frome</a> )
Mrs Rebecca Pow MP ( <a href="#">Taunton</a> )
Mr James Heapey MP

(Wells)
Mr Marcus Fysh MP (Yeovil)
Mrs Wera Hobhouse MP (Bath)
Mr John Penrose MP (Weston-super-Mare)
Dr Liam Fox MP (North Somerset)
The Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg MP (North East Somerset)

The information we do not hold can be requested by submitting a request under the Freedom of Information Act directly to the Cabinet Office.

Please quote the reference number 9891265 in any future communications.

I will now close this request.

If you feel your request has not been answered in sufficient detail, or if you wish to clarify the information given, please contact me, and I will be happy to address the issues you raise.

Alternatively, if you are not satisfied with our response you may request an internal review. This is an independent investigation into the handling of your request, which is carried out by the Information Governance Team. The conclusions of this investigation, and if applicable, a fresh decision about the information to be provided, should be sent to you within twenty working days of receipt of the internal review request.

To request an Internal Review please respond to this letter detailing why you are not satisfied, and your request will be dealt with by the information governance team.

If you are not satisfied with the results of the internal review, you may then appeal directly to the Information Commissioner's Office with your complaint. The Information commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF  
Telephone: 0303 123 1113  
Web address: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)  
<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

Yours sincerely

**Information Request Officer**  
CCM Freedom of Information Requests Team