

William Parker-Smythe  
By email: request-778891-a262ca6b@whatdotheyknow.com

FOI Reference: FOI2021/16110

25 August 2021

Dear William Parker-Smythe

We refer to your request where you asked:

*“Please provide:*

*1. A copy of videos and any other recordings of free public eventbrite events on ‘how to master an honours nomination’ which the cabinet office hosted in 2021, as listed on their website:  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/honours-and-appointments-secretariat-29974450616>.  
I attended some of these and for disability reasons I wish to rewatch and review the notes.*

*2. Please provide a copy of any slideshows or other electronic material used in these events”*

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is held by the Cabinet Office.

Some of the information that you have requested regarding the first part of your request on videos of the eventbrite honours events is exempt under section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 21 exempts information if this information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. Section 21 is an absolute exemption and the Cabinet Office is not required to consider whether the public interest favours disclosure of this information.

You will be able to find a recording of one of the 'How to master an Honours Nomination' session published on the Honours website. This session was BSL translated. To access the site please use the following link:

<https://honours.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/events/how-to-master-an-honours-nomination-with-bsl-interpretation/>

The recordings of the remaining sessions are being withheld under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. This is due to the fact that the guest speakers contributing to these sessions did not consent to having any photographs, videos or voice recordings taken of them to be made publicly available for future use by the Honours and Appointments Secretariat or any Government Departments. They also did not consent to any photographs, videos or voice recordings taken of them to be made available to the general public.

Section 40(2) exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of that information would, amongst other things, contravene one of the data protection principles in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act. In this case, I believe disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and the Cabinet Office is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the information.

The content of these sessions, however, is virtually identical to that within the BSL translated session published on the Honours website, the only difference being the example case studies used and the different guest speakers in attendance.

With regards to the second part of your request, the Powerpoint presentation used for the BSL session is attached to this response, along with the Powerpoint presentations for the other sessions listed on the eventbrite website. Please note that the session listed for 24 February was postponed and held on 31 March instead.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the FOI Team quoting the reference number above.

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:

Rachel Anderson  
Head of Freedom of Information  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AS

email: [foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:foi-team@cabinetoffice.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 the Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. B. Smith', written over a faint, light blue circular stamp or watermark.

FOI Team  
Cabinet Office