



Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP
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Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP
Speaker's Office
House of Commons
London
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By email: speakersoffice@parliament.uk

28 April 2022

Dear Mr Speaker,

Further to the passage of a motion on 29 March 2022 in respect of the appointment of Lord Lebedev to the House of Lords, I am writing to update you on the work being undertaken by Her Majesty's Government to formulate its response to the request of Parliament making its desires and opinions known to the Crown.

In considering this request for information from Parliament, the Government has been (as it has in the case of previous Humble Address motions tabled in this Parliament) guided by Freedom of Information principles and data protection legislation. Ultimately, Ministers have a responsibility not to release information where it is not in the public interest to do so.

This is as noted in the Government Response to the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee's Fifteenth Report: "Status of Resolutions of the House of Commons" in March 2019.

As you will know, the motion provided that redactions could be made 'for the purposes of national security', a consideration which is of utmost importance given the Government's responsibility to protect information when disclosure is not in the public interest.

Of course, in preparing this response, the Government is also giving considerations to other principles such as the need to protect the data of private individuals, communications with Her Majesty and also to the conferring by the Crown of any honour or dignity.

The relevant information has now been collated, but the Government has not yet been able to complete all the necessary considerations. The Government regrets that a response will not be made before the House prorogues at the end of this parliamentary session.

Once the necessary consideration has been given to the material, the Government will promptly upon the return of the House after prorogation, lay its response to the Humble Address motion.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Ellis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office
HM Paymaster General**