

Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP
Speaker of the House of Commons
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London
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Our reference: ICO/O/JE/L/RTL/0785

By email to: Speakersconference2024@parliament.uk

09 May 2025

Dear Sir Lindsay,

Thank you for your letter.

You asked how the right to erasure under the UK GDPR would apply to MPs' and candidates' addresses on publicly available sources, such as planning applications.

Invoking the right to erasure could be an option for candidates and MPs to consider, should they wish to see personal information, like their address, removed from publicly available sources. The UK GDPR itself does not explicitly lay out when the right to erasure would apply, rather it would be for the organisation who have posted the information to justify whether it has grounds for its continued publication. A request may be refused on one of the following grounds:

- to exercise the right of freedom of expression and information;
- to comply with a legal obligation;
- for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority;
- for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific research, historical research or statistical purposes where erasure is likely to render impossible or seriously impair the achievement of that processing; or
- for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims.

In cases where a legal obligation is used as a basis for refusal, the UK GDPR would be unable to supersede this and the right to erasure would not be the effective route to have such information removed.

You go onto ask what other avenues MPs and candidates have, where they are not able to have their information deleted under the right to erasure. There are circumstances where, whilst the right to erasure may not apply, the organisation has a level of discretion about what they publish or redact. Companies House is an example of such an organisation, and it has a process where home addresses can be removed or suppressed in certain [circumstances](#). The right to request this is not enabled by the right to erasure under data protection law, but instead under Section 1088 of the Companies Act 2006, because the right to erasure is disapplied by the legal obligation on Companies House to publish information under the law.

Where information may be required to remain publicly available, individuals are able to ask for information about them to be delisted on search engines. Whilst this may not be a perfect solution, it will make obtaining that information harder. As with the above, this is not an absolute right, and where a search engine judges this information should remain, they are able to refuse the request and they will take into account the public interest of the information remaining available.

If it would be helpful my team would be happy to meet with you and your staff to understand if there is further advice and assistance we can provide to help your conference address the concerns raised.

Outside of this, candidates and MPs are able to seek independent legal advice to see if other avenues, outside of those available under the UKGDPR are available.

Yours sincerely



John Edwards

UK Information Commissioner