



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of the Acting Chief Financial Officer and
Assistant Secretary for Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

September 27, 2023

Mehreen Rasheed
Counsel
American Oversight
1030 15th Street, NW
Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Freedom of Information Request DOC-IOS-2020-001004

Dear Ms. Rasheed:

This letter is in response to your correspondence to the Immediate Office of the Secretary Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Office. We received your request in this office on October 6, 2020 and have assigned to it tracking number "DOC-IOS-2020-001004." We are responding under the FOIA to your request for:

"All text messages and messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, WhatsApp, Twitter DMs, or Facebook messages) between (1) the agency officials specified below, and (2) Rep. Mark Meadows, including messages on any personal devices, as well as official devices attributed to Rep. Meadows, and anyone serving on his staff, including Chief of Staff Ben Williamson, Scheduler Kate Morgan, or Legislative Director Eric Heigis. Specified Agency Officials: U.S. Department of Commerce i. Secretary Wilbur Ross and anyone communicating on his behalf, such as a scheduler or assistant; ii. Anyone serving in the capacity of Chief of Staff or Executive Secretary; iii. Anyone serving in the capacity of White House Liaison or White House Advisor, and their deputies; iv. Anyone serving in the capacity of Director of Legislative Affairs. Please provide all responsive records from February 1, 2020, to the date the search is conducted."

After a search of Agency records, we located no records. If you need any further assistance or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOIA Public Liaison: Nicholas J. Cormier, Deputy Program Director, Office of Privacy and Open Government, efoia@doc.gov.

Please refer to your FOIA request tracking number, DOC-IOS-2020-001004 when contacting us. In addition, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov, Telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; facsimile at 202-741-5769.

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You have the right to appeal this FOIA determination. An appeal must be received within 90 calendar days of the date of this response letter. Address your appeal to the following office: Assistant General Counsel for Employment, Litigation, and Information, Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Ave., NW, Room 5896, Washington, D.C. 20230.

An appeal may also be sent by e-mail to FOIAAppeals@doc.gov. The appeal should include a copy of the original request and initial denial, if any. All appeals should include a statement of the reasons why you are appealing the determination.

The appeal letter, the envelope, and the e-mail subject line should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." The e-mail and office mail are monitored only on working days during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday). FOIA appeals posted to the e-mail box or the office after normal business hours will be deemed received on the next normal business day. If the 90th calendar day for submitting an appeal falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal public holiday, an appeal received by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, the next business day will be deemed timely.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience. If you have any questions, please contact me via email at bparsons@doc.gov or by phone at 202-482-3257.

Sincerely,

ROBERTA
PARSONS

Digitally signed by
ROBERTA PARSONS
Date: 2023.09.27
14:06:50 -04'00'

Bobbie Parsons
FOIA Officer, Immediate Office of the Secretary
Office of Privacy and Open Government
U. S. Department of Commerce