



Homeland  
Security

*Privacy Office, Mail Stop 0655*

March 23, 2021

**SENT VIA E-MAIL TO: [foia@americanoversight.org](mailto:foia@americanoversight.org)**

Austin R. Evers  
Executive Director  
American Oversight  
1030 15th Street, NW, Suite B255  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: **2020-HQFO-00958**

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), dated April 21, 2020, and received by this office on April 21, 2020. You are seeking:

- 1) All Department of Homeland Security (DHS) directives, orders, decision memoranda, protocols, or guidance regarding the practice of segregating groups of detainees or inmates suspected of having symptoms of or exposure to the novel coronavirus within processing or detention centers, also referred to as “cohorting” or “cohort quarantine.”
- 2) All Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) directives, orders, decision memoranda, protocols, or guidance regarding the practice of segregating groups of detainees or inmates suspected of having symptoms of or exposure to the novel coronavirus within processing or detention centers, also referred to as “cohorting” or “cohort quarantine.” (Date Range for Record Search: From 3/1/2020 To 4/22/2020).

We conducted a comprehensive search of files within the Office of the Executive Secretary. Unfortunately, we were unable to locate or identify any responsive records.

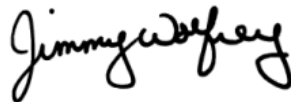
Due to the subject matter of your request, the DHS Privacy Office referred section (2) of this request to Fernando Pineiro, Acting FOIA Officer U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), for processing under the FOIA and his office will direct their response to you. ICE also received this request directly from you as well. For further information, you may contact the office directly at [ice-foia@dhs.gov](mailto:ice-foia@dhs.gov).

While an adequate search was conducted, you have the right to appeal this determination that no records exist within DHS Headquarters that would be responsive to your request. Should you wish to do so, you must send your appeal and a copy of this letter, within 90 days of the date of this letter, to: Privacy Office, Attn: FOIA Appeals, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE, Mail Stop 0655, Washington, D.C. 20528-0655, following the procedures outlined in the DHS FOIA regulations at 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.5(e)(2). Your envelope and letter should be marked "FOIA Appeal." Copies of the FOIA and DHS FOIA regulations are available at [www.dhs.gov/foia](http://www.dhs.gov/foia).

If you need any further assistance or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, please contact the analyst below who processed your request and refer to **2020-HQFO-00958**. You may send an e-mail to [foia@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:foia@hq.dhs.gov), call 202-343-1743 or toll free 1-866-431-0486, or you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison in the same manner. Additionally, you have a right to right to seek dispute resolution services from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) which mediates disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. You may contact OGIS 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](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Provisions of FOIA allow DHS to charge for processing fees, up to \$25, unless you seek a waiver of fees. In this instance, because the cost is below the \$25 minimum, there is no charge.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Wolfrey  
Senior Director, FOIA Operations and Management  
(Acting)

