



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Washington DC 20420

May 1, 2020

In Reply Refer To: 001B
FOIA Request: 20-06444-F

Mehreen Rasheed
American Oversight
[no physical address provided]
foia@americanoversight.org

Dear Mehreen Rasheed,

This is the Initial Agency Decision (IAD) to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (OSVA), dated and received April 29, 2020, and assigned FOIA tracking number **20-06444-F**. You requested:

"All records outlining, discussing, or identifying any legal authorities, powers, or authorizations provided to your agency's chief information and/or data officer by either the White House or leadership of your agency in response to the coronavirus outbreak, including authorities to share, transfer, or access data or to provide access to data to third parties.³ American Oversight considers both new authorities and revisions to existing authorities to be responsive to this request."

"Please provide all responsive records from February 1, 2020, through the date of the search."

As a reminder, the OIT FOIA office is also separately processing OIT records for your OIT FOIA request **20-06431-F**, as is the OGC FOIA office for OGC records for your FOIA request **20-06448-F**. OSVA is processing only records originating from OSVA.

Reasonable Search Dated 5/1/20

On May 1, 2020, the OSVA FOIA Officer searched through VA Integrated Enterprise Workflow Solution (VIEWS), the VA's official Systems of Records for delegations of authorities, revisions or revocations of authorities, policies, directives, handbooks, or standard operating procedures. The OSVA FOIA Officer used search date timeframe of February 1, 2020, to May 1, 2020, our search cut-off date. The OSVA FOIA Officer used the following two sets of search terms: 1) coronavirus, chief, data, and officer; or 2) coronavirus, chief, information, and officer.

This May 1, 2020, VIEWS search did not yield any responsive records relating to data sharing, transfer, access, provision, or submission. Thus, OSVA issues you a "no records" response. Note, the OIT or OGC FOIA offices will provide separate responses, and the OIT or OGC FOIA OFFICES may or may not have responsive records.

FOIA Mediation

As part of the 2007 FOIA amendments, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. Under the provisions of the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016, the following contact information is provided to assist FOIA requesters in resolving disputes:

VA Central Office FOIA Public Liaison:

Name: Doloras Johnson

Email Address: vacofoiaservice@va.gov

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Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)

Email Address: ogis@nara.gov

Fax: 202-741-5769

Mailing address:

National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001

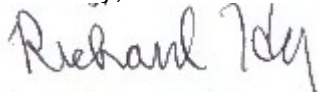
FOIA Appeal

This concludes OSVA's IAD to FOIA request **20-06444-F**. Please be advised that should you desire to do so, you may appeal the determination made in this response to:

Office of General Counsel (024)
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

If you should choose to file an appeal, please include a copy of this letter with your written appeal and clearly indicate the basis for your disagreement with the determination set forth in this response. Please be advised that in accordance with VA's implementing FOIA regulations at 38 C.F.R. § 1.559, your appeal must be postmarked no later than ninety (90) days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,



Richard Ha, JD, CIPP/G
OSVA FOIA Officer