



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

810 Vermont Ave NW
Washington DC 20420
www.va.gov

Via Email: foia@americanoversight.org

October 15, 2020

Ms. Emma Lewis
American Oversight
1030 15th Street, NW, Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Freedom of Information Act Tracking Number **20-09929-F**

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On July 28, 2020, you filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Office of the Secretary (OSVA) requesting:

- All calendars and calendar entries for the agency officials listed below, including any calendars maintained on their behalf, reflecting events that took place from January 1, 2020 to the date the search is conducted to include all attachments.

The FOIA Service received this referral on September 28, 2020, and assigned it tracking number **20-09929-F**. Please refer to this number when communicating with us about your request.

You have been placed in the “news media” category, which means the requester is responsible for the fees associated with duplication, excluding the cost of the first 100 pages, which are free.

While searching for records responsive to your request, OSVA located four (4) pages of documents that originated with, or, pertains to VA, Office of Information and Technology (OI&T) and referred these records to us for a release determination and direct response to you.

We have determined that pursuant to Title 5 U.S.C. (b)(5) the document *Office of Information Technology FY2022 Budget Request* is denied in full.

Exemption 5 permits withholding of information under the deliberative process privilege, including pre-decisional documents, inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency, or information that could be withheld under civil discovery, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product privileges.

You have the right to appeal this response within 90 days of the date of this communication if you do not agree with this determination.

You may appeal in writing to:

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

You may also submit your appeal via facsimile to (202) 273-6388 or via email to ogcfoiaappeals@va.gov. If you do appeal this determination, you must specify which part of the determination you are appealing. Please include a copy of your request and my letter with your appeal, and clearly state why you disagree with this determination. If you mail your appeal, both the front of the envelope and the letter should be clearly marked “FOIA Appeal”. Please also include a daytime telephone number in case the Office of General Counsel needs additional information.

As an alternative to submitting an appeal, you may contact the VA FOIA Public Liaison, which was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and the VA. Using the VA FOIA Public Liaison does not affect your right to appeal.

You may contact the VA FOIA Public Liaison at:

Department of Veterans Affairs
VA FOIA Public Liaison (005R1C)
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20420
Email: vacofoiaservice@va.gov
Phone: (877) 750-3642
Fax: (202) 632-7581

As another alternative to submitting an appeal, you may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) whom was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal Agencies. Using OGIS does not affect your right to appeal. You may contact OGIS in any of the following manners:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives & Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Email: ogis@nara.gov
Phone: (202) 741-5770
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448
Fax: (202) 741-5769

This concludes the FOIA Service's action on your request.

We appreciate your interest in the VA. Customer service is very important to us. If you have questions about this letter, please contact Jacqueline Short of my staff at 202-632-7426.

Sincerely,

Doloras Johnson

Ms. Doloras Johnson
Director, VACO FOIA Service
Quality, Performance, and Risk (QPR)
Office of Information and Technology (OIT)