



**Homeland
Security**

Privacy Office, Mail Stop 0655

December 15, 2020

Austin Evers
American Oversight
1030 15th Street, NW
Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005

Re: **2021-HQFO-00227**

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), dated November 19, 2020, and received by this office on November 19, 2020. You are seeking all records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, text messages, messages on messaging platforms, telephone call logs, calendar invitations, calendar entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) between (a) the following specified officials, and (b) anyone working at the White House, including communicating with an email address ending in who.eop.gov, regarding CISA Director Chris Krebs, CISA Deputy Director Matt Travis, or the CISA website “Rumor Control”.

Specified Officials:

1. Chad Wolf, Acting Secretary of Homeland Security
2. Ken Cuccinelli, Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Deputy Secretary
3. John Gountanis, Acting Chief of Staff
4. Chad Mizelle, Senior Official Performing the Duties of the General Counsel
5. Randolph “Tex” Alles, Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary for Management
6. Anyone serving as White House Liaison.

We conducted a comprehensive search of files within the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) for records that would be responsive to your request. Unfortunately, we were unable to locate or identify any responsive records.

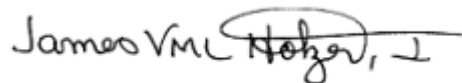
While an adequate search was conducted, you have the right to appeal this determination that no records exist within OCIO that would be responsive to your request. Should you wish to do so, you must send your appeal and a copy of this letter, within 90 days of the date of this letter, to:

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.

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 **2021-HQFO-00227**. You may send an e-mail to 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. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. 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; 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James VML Holzer" with a stylized flourish at the end.

James VML Holzer
Deputy Chief FOIA Officer