



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Secretary

Office of the

Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20201

Case No. 2019-01085-FOIA-OS

June 22, 2022

Sent via email:

American Oversight
1030 15th Street, N.W., Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005
foia@americanoversight.org

Dear American Oversight:

This letter is the final response to your July 16, 2019, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Specifically, you requested the following records: "Since Oct. 2017, All communications (including email messages, email attachments, calendar invitations, memoranda or background material for meetings, or handwritten or typed notes taken during meetings) between (1) any of the agency officials listed below and (2) any employee or representative of Cove Strategies (@covestrategies.com), including, Matthew A. Schlapp OR mschlapp@covestrategies.com: (1) Deputy Secretary and former Acting Secretary Eric Hargan; (2.) Secretary Alex Azar; (3.) Chief of Staff Brian Harrison; (4.) Former Chief of Staff Peter Urbanowicz; (5.) Former Chief of Staff Kristin Skrzycki; (6.) Any other person who has served in the capacity of Chief of Staff; (7.) White House Liaison Trent Morse; (8.) Former White House Liaison Tim Clark; (9.) Any other person who has served in the capacity of White House Liaison; (10.) All political appointees* in the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs; (11.) Assistant Secretary for Legislation Matthew Bassett"

The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) conducted a search and reports there are no records responsive to your request.

While we believe an adequate search of the appropriate files was conducted for the records requested, you have the right to appeal this finding that no responsive records exist within OCIO. By filing an appeal, you preserve your rights under FOIA and give the agency a chance to review and reconsider your request and the agency's decision.

Please mark the correspondence, "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Your appeal must be transmitted within 90 days from the date of receipt of this letter to:

Ms. Carol Maloney
Deputy Agency Chief FOIA Officer
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
HHS.ACFO@hhs.gov

If you would like to discuss our response before filing an appeal to attempt to resolve your dispute without going through the appeals process, you may contact the HHS FOIA Public Liaison for assistance at:

HHS FOIA/PA Public Liaison
FOI/Privacy Acts Division
Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (ASPA)
Office of the Secretary (OS)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Telephone: (202) 690-7453
Fax: (202) 690-8320
E-mail: HHS_FOIA_Public_Liaison@hhs.gov

If you are unable to resolve your FOIA dispute through our FOIA Public Liaison, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), the Federal FOIA Ombudsman's office, offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. The contact information for OGIS is:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
Telephone: 202-741-5770
Toll-Free: 1-877-684-6448
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Fax: 202-741-5769

There are no charges in this instance because the billable costs are less than our threshold of \$25.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Blitzer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Emily" and last name "Blitzer" clearly distinguishable.

Emily Blitzer, on behalf of,

Arianne Perkins
Director, Initial FOIA Requests
FOI/Privacy Acts Division