



Homeland
Security

Privacy Office, Mail Stop 0655

October 22, 2019

SENT VIA E-MAIL TO: foia@americanoversight.org

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

Re: **2019-HQFO-01241**

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), dated September 17, 2019, and received by this office on September 17, 2019. You are seeking all email communications (including email messages, email attachments, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) sent by the below specified officials containing the terms “pardon,” “pardons” or “clemency.”

- i. Former Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen
- ii. Acting Secretary Kevin McAleenan
- iii. General Counsel John Mitnick
- iv. Anyone serving as Chief of Staff to the Secretary or General Counsel
- v. Anyone serving as White House Liaison or White House Advisor

We conducted a comprehensive search of files within the Department of Homeland Security’s, 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.

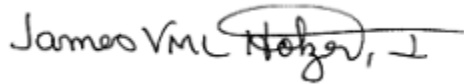
While an adequate search was conducted, you have the right to appeal this determination that no records exist within Department of Homeland Security’s, Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) that would be responsive to your request. Should you wish to do so, you must send your appeal and a copy of this letter, within 90 days of the date of this letter, to: Privacy Office, Attn: FOIA Appeals, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane, SW, Mail Stop 0655, Washington, D.C. 20528-0655, following the procedures outlined in the DHS FOIA regulations at 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.8. 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 **2019-HQFO-01241**.

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 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 V. McHolzer, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

James Holzer
Deputy Chief FOIA Officer