



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

December 2, 2022

Re: F-2020-00414

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW
Suite B255
Washington DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

This is in response to your September 26, 2019, request submitted pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, to the Department of State. We have determined that records responsive to your request are available in the Department's Virtual Reading Room (VRR) (<https://foia.state.gov/search/search.aspx>) and can be located by searching case numbers listed below:

- F-2019-07153
- FL-2020-00002
- FL-2020-00004
- FL-2020-00005
- FL-2020-00006
- FL-2020-00018
- FL-2020-00019
- FL-2020-00021
- FL-2020-00022
- FL-2020-00025
- FL-2020-00028
- FL-2020-00031

The Department is continuing to process records related to your request in the cases listed above, and these will be posted to the VRR on a regular basis. Please check our VRR collection periodically for any newly posted material. If you find the VRR collection does not satisfy your request, you may request the Department conduct an additional search for records. Please include your original FOIA case number in your correspondence.

This action closes your request in this office. For further assistance or to discuss any aspect of your request, you may contact our FOIA Requester Service Center or our FOIA Public Liaison via email to FOIAstatus@state.gov or telephone at (202) 261-8484. Please include the case number in all future communications concerning this FOIA request.

If you are not satisfied with this determination in response to your request, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA Mediation Services they offer.

The contact information is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email address: ogis@nara.gov; telephone: (202) 741-5770; toll free number: 1-877-684-6448; fax: (202) 741-5769.

Additionally, if you are not satisfied with the Department's determination in response to your FOIA request, you may administratively appeal by writing to: Appeals Officer, Office of Information Programs and Services, U.S. Department of State, A/GIS/IPS, HST Room B266, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20520, by email to FOIAAppeals@state.gov, or by fax to 202-485-1718. Appeals must be postmarked within 90 calendar days and include a copy of this letter, clearly stating why you disagree with the determination set forth in this response.

Sincerely,

ENNELLE
DEBROSSE

Digitally signed by
ENNELLE DEBROSSE
Date: 2022.12.01
15:18:20 -05'00'

Ennelle Debrosse
Acting Branch Chief
Office of Information Programs and Services

**The Freedom of Information Act (5
USC 552)**

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

- NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester