



Office of Inspector General United States Department of State

December 17, 2020

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

SUBJECT: Freedom of Information Act Request No. 2019-111
Fifth Interim Response

This is the fifth interim response to your Freedom of Information Act Request dated September 30, 2019 addressed to the Department of State (DOS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) seeking:

“all email communications (email messages, email attachments, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) sent or received by Inspector General Steve Linick regarding any potential or submitted whistleblower complaints involving allegations that concern the conduct of Secretary Mike Pompeo.”

Your request was received in this office on October 3, 2019 and was assigned the FOIA case number of 2019-111. DOS OIG previously made four interim releases to you on August 17, 2020, September 17, 2020, October 17, 2020, and November 17, 2020.

For the fifth interim response DOS OIG searched the OIG's Office of Investigations, Office of Evaluation and Special Projects, Office of General Counsel, and the Front Office (which, as previously discussed by DOJ Counsel is an unclassified email account). Per DOS OIG's agreed upon production schedule, DOS OIG reviewed 500 records and identified no additional responsive records responsive to your request. DOS OIG will continue to process the potentially responsive documents at a minimum of 500 records per month.

Appeal

Although I am aware that your request is the subject of ongoing litigation and appeals are not ordinarily acted on in such situations, I am required by statute and regulation to inform you of your right to file an administrative appeal.¹ If you choose to file an administrative appeal it must be received within 90 days of the date of this response. Please address any appeal to:

¹ For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. 5 U.S.C. 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV 2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

Appeals Officer
Appeals Review Panel
Office of Information Programs and Services
U.S. Department of State
State Annex 2 (SA-2)
515 22nd Street, NW
Washington, DC 20522-8100
Facsimile: 202-261-8571

Both the envelope and letter of appeal should be clearly marked, "Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Appeal." Your appeal letter should also clearly identify the DOS-OIG's response.

Assistance and Dispute Resolution Services

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is 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.

For further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request you may contact Rebecca Cutri- Kohart, US Department of Justice, at rebecca.cutri-kohart@usdoj.gov and 202-514-0265.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jillian M. Clouse

Jillian M. Clouse
Assistant General Counsel
Office of the Inspector General
Department of State