



Homeland
Security

Privacy Office, Mail Stop 0655

February 16, 2021

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

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

Re: **2020-HQFO-00013**

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 30, 2019, and received by this office on September 30, 2019.

You are seeking (1) All records reflecting any formal or informal policies, procedures, instructions, or guidance regarding lodgings or housing for asylum applicants directed back to Mexico pursuant to the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), to include, any documents provided either to DHS officials or directly to asylum applicants; (2) All records reflecting any formal or informal policies, procedures, instructions, or guidance regarding the provision of transportation for asylum applicants directed back to Mexico pursuant to the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), including but not limited to arrangements with the government of Mexico for any such transportation, to include any documents provided either to DHS officials or directly to asylum applicants; (3) Any final reports, briefs, or other final documents created by or provided to DHS or CBP leadership regarding any risk of homicides, kidnapping, or other safety concerns posed to asylum-seekers subject to the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP); (4) Records sufficient to show the total number of asylum seekers directed to remain in Mexico pursuant to the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), and/or any estimations thereof and (5) Records sufficient to show the total number of minors remaining in Mexico pursuant to the MPP, and/or any estimations thereof.

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.

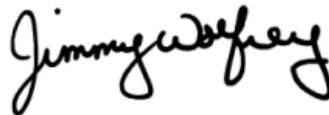
While an adequate search was conducted, you have the right to appeal this determination that no records exist within Department of Homeland Security's, Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) that would be responsive to your request. Should you wish to do so, you must send your

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, 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 **2020-HQFO-00013**. 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, appearing to read "Jimmy Wolfrey".

Jimmy Wolfrey
Senior Director
FOIA Operations and Management (Acting)