



Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

United States Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence  
Avenue, SW.  
Washington, D.C.  
20250

April 28, 2023

**TRANSMITTED VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Christine Monahan  
American Oversight  
1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255  
Washington, DC 20005  
Christine.Monahan@americanoversight.org

RE: 2021-FSIS-00192-F

Dear Ms. Monahan:

This is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated February 17, 2021, to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). You requested email communication between Paul Kiecker and a list of terms that consisted of NPIS, @chickenusa.org, line speed, chicken slaughter, poultry slaughter, eviscerator, evisceration, 140 birds, 140 bpm, 175 birds, 175 bpm. Additionally, per a meeting held on April 27, 2023, you clarified the scope of the request to include communications between Paul Kiecker and White House officials, as well as external contacts, within the context of the proposal to increase poultry evisceration line speeds. We received your request in our office on February 17, 2021.

The FSIS FOIA staff works with subject matter experts across the agency to locate responsive documents. For this request, we conducted a records search in the Office of . FSIS' search began on February 17, 2021. Please be advised that staff in FSIS did not locate any responsive documents.

You may appeal this determination by email to [FSIS.FOIA@USDA.GOV](mailto:FSIS.FOIA@USDA.GOV). Your appeal must be in writing, and it must be received electronically no later than 90 days from the date of this letter. FSIS will not consider appeals received after the 90 calendar-day limit. Appeals received after 5:00 PM EST will be considered received the next business day. Your appeal should include the FOIA tracking number, a copy of your original request, FSIS's response to your original request, as well as reasons supporting your appeal.

For quickest possible handling, please email your appeal to [FSIS.FOIA@USDA.GOV](mailto:FSIS.FOIA@USDA.GOV), and in the subject line of your email and the appeal letter, mark "Freedom of Information Act Appeal" and reference FOIA No. 2021-FSIS-00192-F.

If you do not have access to email, or are otherwise unable to email your appeal, you may mail your appeal to:

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Paul Kiecker  
Administrator  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.  
Room 1170, South Building  
Washington, DC 20250-3700

Provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover part of the cost of processing your request. In this instance, no fees will be charged.

If you have any questions about the processing of your request or about the USDA's FOIA regulations, please contact Luke Harman at 202-720-0290 or via email at [Luke.Harman@usda.gov](mailto:Luke.Harman@usda.gov). If you have general questions about FSIS' FOIA procedures or regulations, please contact Sarah A. Scharf, the FOIA Deputy Director/ FOIA Public Liaison at 202-329-2174 or via email at [Sarah.Scharf@usda.gov](mailto:Sarah.Scharf@usda.gov).

You also have the option to seek assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). Please visit <https://www.archives.gov/ogis/mediation-program/request-assistance> for information about how to request OGIS assistance in relation to a FOIA request.

Thank you for your interest in FSIS programs and policies.

Sincerely,

**Dexter Johnson**  
Digitally signed by Dexter Johnson  
Date: 2023.04.28 13:50:43 -04'00'

Dexter Johnson  
Director, Freedom of Information Act Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly