



OFFICE of GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

July 20, 2015 — Sent via U.S. mail

NATIONAL
ARCHIVES
and RECORDS
ADMINISTRATION

8601 ADELPHI ROAD
OGIS
COLLEGE PARK, MD
20740-6001

web: www.ogis.archives.gov

e-mail: ogis@nara.gov

phone: 202-741-5770

toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

fax: 202-741-5769



Re: Case No. 201500845
AB: CM: NG

Dear [REDACTED]

This responds to your request for assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), which we received via U.S. mail on June 12. Your request for assistance pertains to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests you submitted to the Bureau of Prisons (BOP).

As you know, Congress created OGIS to complement existing FOIA practice and procedure; we strive to work in conjunction with the existing request and appeal process. The goal is for OGIS to allow, whenever practical, the requester to exhaust his or her remedies within the agency, including the appeal process. OGIS has no investigatory or enforcement power, nor can we compel an agency to release documents. OGIS serves as the Federal FOIA Ombudsman and our jurisdiction is limited to assisting with the FOIA process.

We carefully reviewed your submission and understand that during a recent transfer a great deal of your paperwork concerning your FOIA requests was lost. The documents you submitted included BOP's initial response to your request for records related to [REDACTED] and your appeal (assigned tracking No. [REDACTED]) to the Department of Justice's Office of Information Policy (OIP). Your submission also included information about three additional BOP requests—tracking Nos [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]. You ask for OGIS's assistance with these requests.

OGIS contacted BOP and OIP to learn about the status of your requests and appeals.

According to BOP, the agency sent you a final response to request [REDACTED] (seeking records pertaining to [REDACTED]). Requests [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are still pending. According to BOP, in your outstanding requests, you ask for:

- Copy of [REDACTED].
- Copy of [REDACTED] to current.
- Copy of Home Page [REDACTED].

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- Copy of the home page [REDACTED]
- Copy of FOI Exempt Section of [REDACTED]
- Copy of current Inmate Profile [REDACTED]
- Copy of current Clearance Data [REDACTED]
- Copy of [REDACTED]

The Openness Promotes Effectiveness in our National (OPEN) Government Act of 2007, 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(7)(B), gives requesters the right to request an estimated date by which an agency expects to respond to a request. BOP declined to provide an estimated date of completion for your requests.

BOP let us know that it processes FOIA requests on a first-in, first-out basis; this means that requests are processed in the order in which they are received. According to annual FOIA processing statistics available via FOIA.gov, it took BOP an average of 93 days to process complex requests.

If you have not received the response to request No. [REDACTED] or you have any other questions regarding the status of your requests to BOP, please contact:

C. Darnell Stroble
FOIA Public Liason
Bureau of Prisons
320 First Street, NW
HOLC Building, Room 936
Washington, DC 20534

Regarding your appeals, OIP informed OGIS that it recently responded to your appeal concerning records related to a [REDACTED]. OIP also received your appeal of BOP's failure to respond to requests [REDACTED]. For your information, OIP does not typically review issues involved in a request until an agency makes an adverse decision; when a requester appeals an agency's failure to respond, OIP reaches out to the agency to make sure that the request is being processed and provides contact information to allow a requester to follow up with the agency. OIP estimates that they will complete reviewing your appeal by August 14, 2015.

I hope that this information about your request is useful to you. Thank you for contacting OGIS; we will now consider this matter closed.

Sincerely,

/S/

Nikki Gramian, Deputy Director
Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)

cc: C. Darnell Stroble, BOP FOIA
Matthew Hurd, OIP