



OFFICE of GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

October 14, 2015 — Sent via U.S. Mail

NATIONAL
ARCHIVES
and RECORDS
ADMINISTRATION

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[REDACTED]

Re: Case No. 201501099
JH: CM: AB

Dear [REDACTED]:

This responds to your request for assistance to the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), which we received in this office on August 18, 2015, and September 3, 2015. Thank you for your interest in OGIS.

Congress created OGIS to complement existing Freedom of Information Act (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 records. 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 you have made a number of requests for material related to [REDACTED]. We note that your submission is addressed to Mr. Sean O'Neill; please know that Mr. O'Neill works in the Office of Information Policy (OIP) at the Department of Justice (DOJ), which is the office that processes DOJ's FOIA appeals. OGIS is a separate office within the National Archives and Records Administration that provides mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requester and federal agencies.

In your letter to OGIS, you assert that DOJ and other agencies did not provide you with discovery material related [REDACTED]. Please know that FOIA is not a mechanism to obtain discovery material. FOIA and the discovery process serve different purposes: while the criminal discovery process is intended to let defendants learn about the prosecution's case, FOIA is intended to let the public learn more about the practices of federal agencies. These two processes are governed by a different set of laws with different disclosure rules. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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While I understand that this is not the outcome you wanted, I hope you find this information useful. As a courtesy to you, we are returning your submitted materials. At this time, there is no further assistance OGIS can offer. Thank you for bringing this matter to OGIS. We will close your request for assistance.

Sincerely,

/S/

JAMES V.M.L. HOLZER

Director

Enclosures