



OFFICE of GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

December 3, 2015 - Sent via email

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Re: Case No. 201600124  
NG: CM: KG

NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES  
and RECORDS  
ADMINISTRATION

8601 ADELPHI ROAD  
OGIS  
COLLEGE PARK, MD  
20740-6001

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Dear [REDACTED]:

This responds to your October 29, 2015, letter to the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), which we received via email. Your request for assistance concerns your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the National Security Agency (NSA).

As you know, Congress created OGIS to complement existing FOIA practice and procedure and we strive to work in conjunction with the existing request and appeal process. OGIS's goal, whenever practical, is to allow 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 process a particular request before others. OGIS serves as the Federal FOIA Ombudsman and our jurisdiction is limited to assisting with the FOIA process.

You contacted OGIS regarding your [REDACTED] FOIA request to the NSA. The NSA acknowledged your request on [REDACTED]. On [REDACTED], you emailed the agency to ask for a status update, an interim release of any records processed thus far, and an estimated date of completion. In back and forth emails the NSA informed you that requests to the agency are processed first in, first out, and gave you an estimated date of completion of two years. You asked for a specific date, and the agency gave the estimate of [REDACTED], two years after the date of the email. You asked OGIS to assist with this matter.

OGIS contacted NSA's Chief FOIA Officer, Sharon Linkous, to discuss your request. According to Ms. Linkous, the two year estimate that NSA provided to you is based on the NSA's experience with similar requests.

You also asked OGIS to assist you in obtaining an interim release of any records the agency has reviewed so far. According to Ms. Linkous, because the agency is waiting for [REDACTED], the [REDACTED] has not yet provided responsive records. Ms. Linkous further explained that your request was placed in the agency's queue according to the date on which it was received. Because the NSA has not begun processing responsive records, it is not possible for NSA to make an interim response.



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In your submission, you expressed concern that you were unable to get in touch with the NSA FOIA Public Liaison. We discussed this matter with Ms. Linkous, who apologized that the Public Liaison never reached out to you. She mentioned that the most up to date contact information for the FOIA Public Liaison is on NSA's FOIA website, [https://www.nsa.gov/public\\_info/foia/index.shtml](https://www.nsa.gov/public_info/foia/index.shtml).

I hope you find this information useful. At this time, OGIS can offer no further assistance. Thank you for bringing this matter to OGIS. We will close your case.

Sincerely,

/s/

JAMES V.M.L. HOLZER  
Director

cc: Sharon Linkous, Chief FOIA Officer, National Security Agency  
John Chapman, FOIA Public Liaison, National Security Agency