January 19, 2016—Sent via email

Re: Case No.: 201600101
NG: CM

Dear [Redacted]

This responds to your October 19, 2015 request for assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), which we received via email. Your request for assistance pertains to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to the U.S. Department of Justice’s Criminal Division (CRM), National Security Division (NSD), and Office of Public Affairs made by [Redacted].

As you are aware, 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.

Office of Public Affairs
I understand that [Redacted] submitted a request to the Office of Public Affairs for records about [Redacted], and that while the agency acknowledged the request (which was assigned tracking No. [Redacted]) and granted [Redacted] request for expedited processing, he has not received a response to his request. You asked for OGIS’s assistance with this matter.

OGIS staff contacted Office of Public Affairs FOIA staff to discuss the status of [Redacted] request. The Office of Public Affairs informed OGIS that they recently provided [Redacted] with an interim response and information about the status of his request.

Criminal Division
[Redacted] also submitted a request to CRM for records about [Redacted]. CRM assigned the request tracking No. [Redacted] and granted [Redacted] request for expedited processing; the Division then notified [Redacted] that it referred a responsive document to the Office of Information Policy (OIP). You seek information on the status of this request.

OGIS staff discussed the status of [Redacted] request with OIP. OIP informed OGIS that its Initial Response staff contacted [Redacted] to discuss his request and provide status information.
National Security Division submitted a request for records about [redacted] and again on [redacted]. NSD informed [redacted] that because of the similarity of these requests, the Division will not process the second request. You seek information about the status of the first request, No. 1 [redacted].

OGIS staff discussed this request with NSD FOIA staff. NSD FOIA staff explained that they are coordinating with another office in a search for responsive documents. NSD was not able to provide OGIS with an estimated date of completion for this request.

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

Sincerely,

/s/

JAMES V.M.L. HOLZER
Director

cc: OIP FOIA
    NSD FOIA
    CRM FOIA

We appreciate your feedback. Please visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/OGIS to take a brief anonymous survey on the service you received from OGIS.