



OFFICE *of* GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

February 22, 2016—Sent via email

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Re: Case No.: 201501110  
NG: CM

NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES  
*and* RECORDS  
ADMINISTRATION

8601 ADELPHI ROAD  
OGIS  
COLLEGE PARK, MD  
20740-6001

web: [www.ogis.archives.gov](http://www.ogis.archives.gov)  
e-mail: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
phone: 202-741-5770  
toll-free: 1-877-684-6448  
fax: 202-741-5769

Dear [REDACTED]:

This responds to your August 14, 2015 request for assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), which we received via email. Your request for assistance pertains to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI).

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.

You made a request to the FBI in [REDACTED] for information related to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] you received an interim release of a spreadsheet. You asked for OGIS's assistance with this matter; in particular, you are concerned about the FBI's delay in completing your request. In a conversation with OGIS Facilitator Angel Simmons, you also explained that the released spreadsheet does not provide enough information to understand [REDACTED]; you ask that the FBI provide additional information to explain the record.

OGIS staff discussed your request with FBI FOIA staff. The FBI explained that while you have received approximately 2,000 responsive pages thus far, approximately 3,600 pages remain to be processed. The FBI estimates that it will complete processing and respond to your request in September, 2016.

I understand that you are frustrated by the delay in the response to your request. Delays, while unfortunate, are an unavoidable aspect of FOIA for many agencies, particularly those that receive as many requests as the FBI.



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Regarding your concern about the intelligibility of the spreadsheet that was released to you, FBI FOIA staff explained that it is an inventory of [REDACTED]. For your information, courts have found that agencies are not required to add explanatory materials to any records disclosed in response to a FOIA request. *NLRB v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 421 U.S. 132 (1975).

At this time, there is no further assistance OGIS can offer. Thank you for bringing this matter to OGIS. We will close your case.

Sincerely,

/s/

JAMES V.M.L. HOLZER  
Director

cc: FBI 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.