September 8, 2016 - Sent via email

Re: Case No. 201601047
NG: KG

Dear [Redacted]

This responds to your July 8, 2016 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 U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP).

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.

OGIS provides mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. After opening a case, OGIS gathers information from the requester and the agency to learn more about the nature of the dispute. This process helps us gather necessary background information, assess whether the issues are appropriate for mediation, and determine the willingness of the parties to engage in our services. As part of our information gathering, OGIS carefully reviewed your submission of information.

You asked OGIS to assist with a request you submitted to BOP on [Redacted]. OGIS contacted BOP to discuss your request. BOP informed OGIS the agency issued a response to you on [Redacted], which you should receive in the next seven business days. BOP provided appeal rights in their response, should you dispute the agency’s determination.
The appeal is an important part of the FOIA administrative process. By filing an appeal, you preserve your administrative rights and give the agency a chance to carefully review and reconsider every part of a request and the agency’s decision. You have 90 days from the date of the agency’s letter to appeal the determination.

At this time, there is no further assistance that OGIS can offer and we will close your case.

Sincerely,

/s/

NIKKI GRAMIAN
Acting Director

cc: Darnell Stroble, FOIA Public Liaison, Federal Bureau of Prisons

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.