



Office of the Chief
Records Officer for the
U.S. Government

Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.

March 14, 2025

Christopher Colbow
United States Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Suite 2.07-70
Washington, DC 20523

Dear Mr. Colbow,

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) received an allegation of unauthorized disposition of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) records. On February 12, 2025, NARA received a message from a USAID employee who had been told that documents were being shredded inside the Ronald Reagan Building.

Per 36 CFR 1230.16 (a), NARA promptly notified you by phone about this allegation requesting this matter be investigated. On February 14, 2025, you emailed NARA's Oversight and Reporting Program stating that you looked into the allegation and found there was no direct evidence of USAID records being destroyed and that you will have an opportunity to enter the Ronald Reagan Building in the near future to ensure no records were destroyed.

In accordance with 36 CFR § 1230, NARA requests that USAID respond within 30 calendar days to the date of this letter regarding this allegation. The response should include the following information:

- A complete description of the records with volume and dates if known;
- The office maintaining the records;
- A statement of the exact circumstances surrounding the removal, defacing, alteration, or destruction of records;
- A statement of the safeguards established to prevent further loss of documentation; and
- Details of the actions taken to salvage, retrieve, or reconstruct the records.

If no records were improperly destroyed, please provide sufficient information to support that finding. I appreciate your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please contact the Records Management Oversight and Reporting Program by email at UnauthorizedDisposition@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

William Fischer

WILLIAM FISCHER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government (Acting)