



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

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September 17, 2025

Michelle Thomas
Departmental Records Officer
Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20407

Dear Ms. Thomas:

On April 28, 2025, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) received an allegation that records of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of the Immigration Detention Ombudsman (OIDO) were at risk of actual, impending, or threatened unauthorized destruction. According to the allegation, OIDO employees were instructed to immediately destroy all records of that office.

NARA made contact with DHS on May 1st, and spoke with the DHS records officer by phone that same day. DHS agreed to investigate the matter. NARA transmitted formal correspondence to the DHS records officer on May 14, 2025.

On June 16, 2025, NARA received DHS's letter conveying the results of its investigation. According to the letter, no OIDO records were destroyed in an unauthorized manner. NARA understands the investigation found that no order to destroy records was issued, and that the existence of OIDO records was confirmed.

NARA considers this matter closed. If any DHS records do become subject to actual, impending, or threatened damage, alienation, or unauthorized destruction, please alert NARA immediately. 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
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government (Acting)