

APPROVED FOR RELEASE   
DATE: 02-08-2011



Washington, D.C. 20505

16 September 2010

Mr. Jason Smathers



Reference: F-2010-01797

Dear Mr. Smathers:

On 8 September 2010, the office of the Information and Privacy Coordinator received your 8 September 2010 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for:

- 1) All FOIA requests including all corresponding internal and external communication, investigative records, and any other resulting record where a FOIA request was sent to your agency.
- 2) Any policy documents or internal communication describing when a FOIA request should be referred to an investigator or an investigative agency.

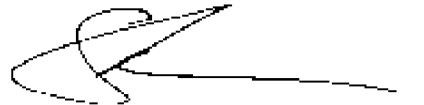
We have assigned your request the reference number above. Please use this number when corresponding so that we can identify it easily.

Regarding Item 1, we cannot accept your FOIA request in its current form because it would require the Agency to perform an unreasonably burdensome search. The FOIA requires requesters to "reasonably describe" the information they seek so that professional employees familiar with the subject matter can locate responsive information with a reasonable amount of effort. Because of the breadth and lack of specificity of your request, and the way in which our records systems are configured, the Agency cannot conduct a reasonable search for information responsive to your request. We encourage you to refine the scope of your request (such as including a time frame for, and narrower, more specific descriptions of, the information you seek) to enable us to conduct a reasonable search for responsive information.

The CIA Information Act, 50 U.S.C. § 431, as amended, exempts CIA operational files from the search, review, publication, and disclosure requirements of the FOIA. To the extent your request seeks information that is subject to the FOIA, we accept Item 2 of your request and will process it in accordance with the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended, and the CIA Information Act. Unless you object, we will limit our search to CIA-originated records existing through the date of this acceptance letter. As a matter of administrative discretion, and in accordance with our regulations, the Agency has waived the fees for this request.

The large number of FOIA requests CIA receives has created unavoidable delays making it unlikely that we can respond within the 20 working days the FOIA requires. You have the right to consider our honest appraisal as a denial of your request and you may appeal to the Agency Release Panel. A more practical approach would permit us to continue processing your request and respond to you as soon as we can. You will retain your appeal rights and, once you receive the results of our search, can appeal at that time if you wish. We will proceed on that basis unless you object.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Scott Koch', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Scott Koch  
Acting Information and Privacy Coordinator

