

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

9 July 2014

Mr. Evan Hill  
Al Jazeera America  
435 Hudson Street  
Suite 400  
New York, NY 10014

Reference: F-2014-01749

Dear Mr. Hill:

This is further to our 9 June 2014 letter concerning your 6 June 2014 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for:

- 1. Any and all records referring to the Twitter account @CIA.**
- 2. Records relating to the establishment and operation of the account, including emails.**

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, for **any and all records referring to the Twitter account @ CIA**, we cannot accept this part of 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. Commonly this equates to a requirement that the documents must be locatable through the indexing of our various systems. Extremely broad or vague requests or requests requiring research do not satisfy this requirement.

Therefore, in your future requests we recommend that you reasonably describe the information you seek in a manner which will allow us to locate responsive records with a reasonable amount of effort. You may consider narrowing and detailing the subject of your request by using one or more of the following approaches: requesting records on specific individuals, requesting records originated within a particular time-frame, requesting particular type of reports, such as finished intelligence, or requesting records pertaining to a specific event, circumstance, or location. You may consider requesting specific reports by title, if possible.

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 for records relating to the establishment and operation of the [Twitter] account, including emails, and we will process it in accordance with the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended. Unless you object, we will limit our search to CIA-originated records up to and including the date the Agency starts its search. In accordance with our regulations, as a matter of administrative discretion, 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 cursive script, appearing to read "Michele Meeks".

Michele Meeks  
Information and Privacy Coordinator