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"Rummaging in the government's attic"

Description of document: List of investigations conducted by The Social Security

Administration (SSA) closed during calendar year 2013

Requested date: 24-May-2014

Released date: 07-November-2014

Posted date: 30-May-2016

Source of document: FOIA Request

Social Security Administration Office of Privacy and Disclosure

617 Altmeyer Building 6401 Security Boulevard Baltimore, MD 21235

Online General Request for Social Security Records

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Refer to:

S9H: AM2827 November 7, 2014

I am responding to your May 24, 2014 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for a list of investigations closed during calendar year 2013.

I have enclosed an Excel spreadsheet containing the requested information. Below is a summary of the information:

- There were 7,981 cases closed during FY 13.
- The list contains 7,974 cases. The discrepancy is due to the exclusion of 7 cases that were reopened and are currently still open.
- The list contains 8,568 records. This is because there are multiple subjects for some cases.
- There are 44 cases categorized as "Other" in the Program Category Group column.

 These are made up of the following program categories: Threat Non-SSA; Internal Program SSA; Procurement/Contracts; Computer Investigations; CIRP; Complaint not Related to SSA; OI Background Investigation; and OCIG Whistleblower.

I have redacted the list of investigative subjects whose names are protected from disclosure pursuant to FOIA Exemption 6 (5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6). When we receive a request from a member of the public to release personal information about another individual from our records, we must balance the individual's privacy interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosing the information. We must determine whether disclosure would affect a personal privacy interest. Individuals clearly have a substantial personal privacy interest in the personal details furnished to the Government. On the other hand, the only public interest we must consider is whether the information sought would shed light on the way an agency performs its statutory duties. We may not consider the identity of the requester or the purpose for which the information is requested. While the public has an interest in knowing how the Social Security Administration administers the Social Security Act, disclosing records containing personal information about named individuals would not shed light on how the agency performs its statutory duties. Therefore, disclosing this information would be a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, and the information is exempt under the FOIA (5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)).

I am also withholding the names under FOIA Exemption (7)(C)(5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(C)). Exemption 7C protects from disclosure personal information compiled for law enforcement purposes if disclosing such information could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Additionally, I am withholding the Office of Investigations (OI) case numbers pursuant to Exemption 7E (5 U.S.C. §552(b)(7)(E). Exemption 7(E) exempts from mandatory disclosure records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes when production of such records "would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law."

If you disagree with this decision, you may appeal it. Mail the appeal within 30 days after you receive this letter to the Executive Director for the Office of Privacy and Disclosure, Social Security Administration, 617 Altmeyer Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235. Mark the envelope "Freedom of Information Appeal."

Sincerely,

Dawn S. Wiggins

Freedom of Information Officer

Dawn S. Wiggins

Enclosure

Open Date Reopen Da	ate Close Date Program Category Group	Subject Name
7/24/2009 14:21	11/29/2012 18:27 Title XVI-Disability (T16-DI)	
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