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Media/Press Inquiry Log, 2002-2018

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Source of document: FOIA Request
FinCEN Disclosure Office
PO Box 39
Vienna, VA 22183
Email: FinCENFOIA@fincen.gov
[Treasury Online FOIA Request Form](#)

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Financial Crimes Enforcement Network
U.S. Department of the Treasury

Washington, D.C. 20220

November 2, 2018

Case Numbers: FinCEN 19-013-F
goFOIA 2018-10-134

This letter responds to your Freedom of Information Act request dated October 17, 2018, addressed to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) FOIA Office, seeking a copy of the FINCEN Media/Press Inquiry Log(s) covering calendar years 2016, 2017, and 2018 to date.

The processing of your request identified certain materials that will be released to you. Portions not released are being withheld pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552. Please refer to the Applicable Exemptions list at the end of this letter that identifies the authority for withholding the exempt material, which is indicated by a mark appearing in the block next to the exemption. An additional enclosure with this letter explains these exemptions in more detail.

Fees

There are no fees associated with processing this request because the fees incurred do not exceed the minimum threshold necessary for charge.

Administrative Appeal

In the event that you wish to appeal this determination, an administrative appeal may be made in writing to FOIA FinCEN P.O. Box 39 Vienna, VA 22183. Please be sure to clearly mark "FOIA/PA Appeal" on both the letter and envelope. Your appeal **must be submitted within 90 days** from the date of this determination. It should contain your FOIA request number and, to the extent possible, the reasons why you believe the initial determination should be reversed. In addition, the envelope in which the appeal is mailed should be prominently marked "FOIA Appeal." Please note that the determination of the appeal will be administratively final.

Additionally, you have the right to seek dispute resolution services from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) which mediates disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. If you are requesting access to

your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. You may contact OGIS as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5796.

If you have any questions pertaining to your request, please feel free to contact the FOIA Office at email FinCENFOIA@fincen.gov.

Sincerely,



Rosemary Law
FOIA Officer

Summary:

Number of Pages Released in Full or Part: 18

**APPLICABLE EXEMPTIONS
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT AND/OR PRIVACY ACT**

Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552)

(b)(1) (b)(2) (b)(3) (b)(4) (b)(5) (b)(6)

(b)(7)(A) (b)(7)(B) (b)(7)(C) (b)(7)(D) (b)(7)(E) (b)(7)(F)

Enclosures

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT
SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) FOIA Branch applies FOIA exemptions to protect:

Exemptions

Exemption (b)(1): Records that contain information that is classified for national security purposes.

Exemption (b)(2): Records that are related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency.

Exemption (b)(3): Records specifically exempted from disclosure by code 31 U.S.C. § 5319, (Bank Secrecy Act) which includes disclosure of reports pertaining to monetary instruments transactions filed under subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 31 and records of those reports.

Exemption (b)(4): Records that contain trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person that is privileged or confidential.

Exemption (b)(5): Inter- or intra-agency records that are normally privileged in the civil discovery context. The three most frequently invoked privileges are the deliberative process privilege, the attorney work-product privilege, and the attorney-client privilege:

- Deliberative process privilege – Under the deliberative process privilege, disclosure of these records would injure the quality of future agency decisions by discouraging the open and frank policy discussions between subordinates and superiors.
- Attorney work-product privilege – Records prepared by or at the direction of a FinCEN attorney.
- Attorney-client privilege – Records of communications between an attorney and his/her client relating to a matter for which the client has sought legal advice, as well as facts divulged by client to attorney and any opinions given by attorney based on these.

Exemption (b)(6): Records that contain identifying information that applies to a particular individual when the disclosure of such information "would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." This requires the balancing of the public's right to disclosure against the individual's right to privacy.

Exemption (b)(7)(A): Records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that production of such law enforcement records or information... could reasonably be expected to interfere with law enforcement proceedings.

Exemption (b)(7)(C): Records containing law enforcement information when disclosure "could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy" based upon the traditional recognition of strong privacy interests ordinarily appropriated in law enforcement records.

Exemption (b)(7)(E): Records compiled for law enforcement purposes, the release of which would disclose techniques and/or 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.

Exemption (b)(7)(D): Records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes [which] could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, including a state, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of a record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source.

Exemption (b)(7)(F): Records containing law enforcement information about a person, in that disclosure of information about him or her could reasonably be expected to endanger his or her life or physical safety.

Request ID	First	Last	Organization	Issue	Category	Contact	Created	Resolved	Question
000000000000346	Michelle	Colman	6sqft.com	GTO	2016 Beneficial Ownership	Press	1/19/2016 19:00	1/20/2016 12:00	<p>From: Michelle Colman (b) (6)</p> <p>Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2016 8:53 AM</p> <p>To: FRCSUBJECT: GTO</p> <p>I am writing an article for 6sqft.com about the new regulations to curb money laundering in NYC. Will the information you collect be confidential?</p> <p>Thank you, Michelle</p>
000000000000520	Morgan	Halberg	The New York Observer	Advisory	Issue	Press	1/26/2016 6:56	1/26/2016 6:56	<p>From: Morgan Halberg (b) (6)</p> <p>Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 10:11 AM</p> <p>To: FRCSUBJECT: Observer</p> <p>I'm writing an article for the Observer on the new disclosure requirements being placed on shell companies in Manhattan, and had a few questions I'd really love to speak with someone about. I know the government offices are closed today, but in general I wanted to know why the Treasury has decided at this particular moment in time to impose these regulations, and what the desired outcome from this is. If you could get back to me as soon as possible at (b) (6) I would greatly appreciate it. Thank you so much.</p> <p>Best, Morgan Halberg</p> <p>-- Morgan Halberg Staff Writer The New York Observer</p>
0000000000008150	Linda	Stern	Thomson Reuters	GENERAL INQUIRY	Public Affairs	Press	7/21/2016 7:20	7/21/2016 7:20	<p>From: (b) (6)</p> <p>[mailto: (b) (6)]</p> <p>Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 3:21 PM</p> <p>To: FRCSUBJECT: can I get on your media email list please?</p> <p>Hi there, I am beginning a new position at Reuters and will soon be the Financial Regulation editor, in Washington DC bureau. Can you please add me to your distribution list?</p> <p>Thanks much</p> <p>Linda</p> <p>Linda Stern Wall Street Editor Columnist, Stern Advice personal finance column Thomson Reuters</p> <p>(b) (6)</p>

00000000009747	Sophia	Unknown	WSG National Title Company	GTO	2015 Miami TBML GTO	Press	9/8/2016 5:31	9/8/2016 5:31	Why is the recent GTO only applicable to certain areas and not all of U.S.?
00000000010678	Nushin	Rashidian	Tow Center for Digital Journalism	FinCEN SAR	Form Assistance	Press	10/4/2016 10:49	10/4/2016 10:49	<p>From: Nushin Rashidian (b) (6)</p> <p>Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2016 12:45 PM</p> <p>To: FRCSUBJECT: The latest situation report on SAR filings on marijuana related businesses</p> <p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>A reporter with our news organization obtained, through a FOIA request, the May 2016 redacted Situation Report for "SAR Filings On Marijuana Related Businesses."</p> <p>I wanted to see, considering they appear to be released every couple of months, if I could obtain the latest report without having to file another FOIA request.</p> <p>Please let me know, thanks so much, Nushin</p> <p>--</p> <p>Nushin Rashidian</p>
00000000010791	Nushin	Rashidian	Tow Center for Digital Journalism	FinCEN SAR	E-Filing	Press	10/6/2016 11:18	10/6/2016 11:18	<p>From: Nushin Rashidian (b) (6)</p> <p>Sent: Thursday, October 06, 2016 11:40 AM</p> <p>To: FRCSUBJECT: Re: The latest situation report on SAR filings on marijuana related businesses</p> <p>Hello, do you know when the next numbers will be released?</p> <p>Thanks so much, Nushin</p> <p>On Tue, Oct 4, 2016 at 2:47 PM, FRCwrote: Thank you for contacting FinCEN. The May 2016 numbers are the latest we've made public.</p> <p>Regards, FinCEN ? Office of Public Affairs</p> <p>From: Nushin Rashidian (b) (6)</p>
00000000010909	Polly	Mosendz	Bloomberg	Other	Assistance	Press	10/12/2016 10:26	10/12/2016 10:26	Caller is from the media wishing to ask some questions about some proposed guidance she heard about.

00000000018770	Diane	Alter	CTSN	Other	Assistance	Press	4/25/2017 11:46	4/25/2017 11:46	Caller is a news reporter inquiring about the INVOIS Capital One credit card sale.
00000000022513	Tyler	Tulenko	CTFN	Other	Assistance	Press	7/26/2017 7:39	7/26/2017 7:39	<p>Thank you! From: Tyler Tulenko (b) (6) Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 9:13 AM To: FRCSUBJECT: Question Regarding Policy</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>I was wondering if you guys have an official statement on policy regarding foreign ownership of money transmitters.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Tyler Tulenko</p> <p>CTFN Tyler Tulenko Research Analyst (b) (6) 152 Main Street, Westport, CT 06880</p>
00000000022684	Anna	Irrea	Reuters	Other	Assistance	Press	7/31/2017 10:14	7/31/2017 10:14	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>Here?s another media inquiry</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>FinCEN?s Resource Center</p> <p>From (b) (6) [mail Sent: Monday, July 31, 2017 11:01 AM To: FRCSUBJECT: reuters request</p> <p>Hi, I am a reporter for Reuters in NY where I cover financial technology, including the cryptocurrency market</p> <p>I am working alongside a team of colleagues on a project on cryptocurrency exchanges. Would anyone at the FINCEN be available for a background briefing on some of the rules that apply</p>

00000000023059	Chris	Stubbert		Other	Assistance	Press	8/8/2017 12:17	8/8/2017 12:17	<p>From: Chris Stubbert (b) (6)</p> <p>Sent: Tuesday, August 08, 2017 3:37 PM</p> <p>To: FRCSUBJECT: Media inquiry: SAR Activity Review</p> <p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>Our firm is working on an article about FinCEN's SAR Activity Review which was last published in 2013. We would like to understand why its publication was discontinued?(for example whether this was a policy decision based on feedback from private industry, or perhaps budgetary constraints etc.)</p> <p>We would also like to know if there is any chance the SAR Activity Review or a similar publication would be published in the future, and if so when could the public expect to see it?</p> <p>We look forward to a reply.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Chris Stubbert</p>
00000000023248	Richard	Rand	KPNX Channel 12	FinCEN CTR	Other	Press	8/14/2017 12:16	8/14/2017 12:16	Media inquire.
00000000023521	Mohsen	Sharifi	Manoto TV	Other	Assistance	Press	8/22/2017 5:30	8/22/2017 5:30	<p>-----Original Message-----</p> <p>From: website@fincen.gov [mailto:website@fincen.gov]</p> <p>Sent: Monday, August 21, 2017 12:29 PM</p> <p>To: FRCSUBJECT: [Send a Message] Media Enquiry: BTC-E.COM</p> <p>Mohsen Sharifi (b) (6) sent a message using the contact form at https://www.fincen.gov/contact.</p> <p>Message</p> <p>Dear Sir/ Madam,</p> <p>My name is Mohsen Sharifi and I am working for Marjan Television Network's business show called "Money Matters".</p> <p>Lots of our viewers have contacted us regarding investment on www.btc-e.com which was blocked by FBI on 27 July 2017 on behalf of FinCEN and U.S.</p> <p>Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California and the</p>

00000000023801	Eva	Mazrieva	Voa News	Other	Assistance	Press	8/28/2017 11:04	8/28/2017 11:04	<p>From: Eva Mazrieva (b) (6)</p> <p>Sent: Monday, August 28, 2017 2:31 PM</p> <p>To: FRCSUBJECT: INTERVIEW</p> <p>Importance: High</p> <p>Dear FINCEN, Indonesian Financial Transaction Reports and Analysis Center PPATK have investigated and analyzed the financial transaction data from the owners of travel agency ?First Anugrah Karya Wisaya? ? better known as ?First Travel? ? to some event organizers in New York. ?First Travel? is being investigated for allegedly scamming money from more than 70,000 would-be-umrah or mini-hajj pilgrims, and the total losses had reached US\$63,59 million. Indonesia?s financial service regulator (OJK) ordered ?First Travel? to cease their operation on July 21 after received many complaints from some would-be-pilgrims that their umrah trips to Saudi Arabia had been cancelled, although they had paid their full fare. (The umrah package from ?First Travel? is much cheaper than what has been offered by the government).</p> <p>The owner of ?First Travel? Andika Surachman and his wife Anniesa</p>
00000000023962	Laura	Saunders	Wall St Journal	GENERAL INQUIRY	Public Affairs	Press	8/31/2017 4:40	8/31/2017 4:40	<p>From: website@fincen.gov [mailto:website@fincen.gov]</p> <p>Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2017 1:54 PM</p> <p>To: FRCSUBJECT: [Send a Message] URGENT INQUIRY // DEADLINE SOON // Wall St. Journal</p> <p>Laura Saunders (b) (6) sent a message using the contact form at https://www.fincen.gov/contact.</p> <p>Message</p> <p>The IRS has extended deadlines for taxpayers affected by Hurricane Harvey.</p> <p>IS FINCEN extending the Oct. 16 deadline for filing FBARS for these taxpayers?</p> <p>PLS RESPOND SOONEST.</p>
00000000024380	unknown	unknown	local writer	Other	Assistance	Press	9/11/2017 11:44	9/11/2017 11:44	<p>Caller is looking to meet with Jamal to ask questions with him on racketeering within the gov't with public officials.</p>

00000000028731	Kate	Rogers	CNBC	AML Compliance	2014 Marijuana Guidance	Press	1/11/2018 5:48	1/11/2018 5:48	<p>Hello- this is Kate Rogers from CNBC, I hope you're well. I wanted to see if you can comment and confirm this reporting from Reuters regarding AG Sessions? action on marijuana. Did FinCEN not have advanced warning about this action? And did you receive many inquiries regarding how to operate?</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/article/usa-justice-marijuana/exclusive-us-justice-department-blindsided-banking-agency-on-pot-policy-flip-sources-idUSKBN1EZ2Y8</p> <p>Thank you!</p> <p>Best,</p> <p>Kate Rogers Reporter (b) (6)</p>
00000000030747	Ryan	Unknown		Other	Assistance	Press	2/28/2018 13:30	2/28/2018 13:30	Caller is as media person writing an article about the L/E awards.
REQ0005256	Fred	Garcia	Malaya News	Other		Press	6/30/2002 20:00	7/1/2002 20:00	Caller wanted to know about information he had seen in an article that related to a FinCEN case.
REQ0005419	Matt	Burger	N/A	Other		Press	7/8/2002 20:00	7/8/2002 20:00	Caller wanted to speak with someone regarding an article he was writing.
REQ0011325	Steve	Melnick	N/A	Other		Press	11/7/2002 19:00	11/7/2002 19:00	Questions regarding Financial institutions that are required to file CTRs and SARs under the BSA.
REQ0012979	Darryl		N/A	Other		Press	2/6/2003 19:00	2/6/2003 19:00	caller was writing a novel and wanted to learn more about FinCEN and how we operate.
REQ0014383	Sam	Ott	Bankers Online	314 Communications		Press	3/23/2003 19:00	3/23/2003 19:00	How do I get Director Sloan's e-mail?
REQ0026332	John	Anderson	Private Citizen/Journalist	Other		Press	2/2/2005 19:00	2/2/2005 19:00	Caller is a journalist looking for information on money laundering related to drugs, corruption, and fraud. Wants statistics, how much money laundered?

REQ0026466	John	Sevigny	Money Laundering Alert	Regulatory Definitions		Press	2/9/2005 19:00	2/9/2005 19:00	<p>Call was transferred to me. 1. He asked how to determine whether a business was an MSB. 2. He asked if we required MSBs outside of the US to register. 3. He asked if any other MSBs did not have to register. 4. He asked what "stored value" is.</p> <p>The questions I did not answer were: How many MSBs are there? I explained the definitional problem in that, such as whether to count branches or not. The one question I said I would get back to him on was "How many MSBs are registered?"</p>
REQ0027588	Carol	James	N/A	MSB Registration		Press	3/31/2005 19:00	3/31/2005 19:00	She needed information on how to become a MSB and how to register as a MSB with FinCEN's database.
REQ0032752	Jesse	Hastings	AML Compliance Alerts	CTR General		Press	12/26/2005 19:00	12/26/2005 19:00	Executive editor of "AML Compliance Alerts" says that he has a CTR question that he would like to publish information about in their next issue.
REQ0035405	Bryan	Bradley	Young & Associates	CTR General		Press	5/14/2006 20:00	5/15/2006 20:00	A bank customer deposits \$10,700 in cash in an ATM owned by another bank. Who completes the CTR?
REQ0059524	Lindsey	Browny	New York Times	AML Compliance	Regulations	Press	1/7/2009 19:00	1/8/2009 4:47	Business reporter writing a story on AML laws. Says that she was referred by press office.
REQ0061492	Javier	Servier		Other	Assistance	Press	4/27/2009 7:01	4/27/2009 7:01	Reporter/Columnist with questions about MSBs, particularly whether MSBs could buy/sell Iraqi Dinars.
REQ0081690	Ann	Hoffman	Naugatuck Savings Bank	CTR Exemption - 2009 Revision	Change in EIN	Press	2/15/2011 5:00	2/17/2011 5:00	We have a company the the bank exempted when they were an LLC. The company has changed its charter and is now incorporated with a new EIN. Everything else remained the same. Is a new DOEP required?
REQ0090899	Josephina	Marquez	La Huertanorte Grocery	MSB Requirements	De-Registration	Press	10/12/2011 21:00	10/12/2011 21:00	Stopped agent wire transfer services on 9/30/2011 and wants to de-register. No other MSB products provided to customers. How to de-register?
REQ0095393	Amanda	Wilbur	Security Title Insurance Agency	Other	Assistance	Press	2/22/2012 8:01	2/22/2012 8:01	Requesting assistance with deterring if their client is not the same person they found on a list (stated per closing procedures, they are required to confirm if there is anything against the seller and/or purchaser).

REQ0096966	Owais	Noorani	Unknown	CTR	Form Instructions	Press	3/22/2012 6:29	3/22/2012 6:29	Has questions regarding a CTR their FI filed that.
REQ0115386	David	Scooge	Nickle Broker Dealer	E-Filing	Technical Assistance	Press	10/24/2012 13:41	10/24/2012 13:41	I have been trying to log in but I have been unable to do so would like some help.
REQ0154029	Tiffany	Rider	South Coast Publishings	GENERAL INQUIRY	Public Affairs	Press	11/25/2013 6:13	11/25/2013 6:13	<p>We at the Long Beach Business Journal are working on an article on the topic of virtual currency. We are specifically looking at the recent Congressional hearing on Bitcoin and how existing law (such as the Bank Secrecy Act) may be applied to regulate it.</p> <p>We would like to include comments from FinCEN on how virtual currency ? whether centralized or not ? may be used as a legitimate medium of exchange. We are also interested in the possible impacts on U.S. and international economies with the creation of new financial services models around virtual currencies like Bitcoin. We also understand there are concerns with regulating this currency in order to prevent financial crimes.</p> <p>Please send e-mailed comments by Tuesday, November 26. Feel free to call me at (b) (6)</p>
REQ0154939	Jorge	Martinez	Centro Deportivo	Other	Assistance	Press	12/4/2013 12:41	12/4/2013 12:41	<p>We publish a magazine in the Metro DC Area, and we are researching a story about what appears to be a FinCEN case. We have the following data to identify what is labeled an 'Intelligence Report' for that case:</p> <p>FinCEN Case #: 2013IN12[other characters possible] Requester Case #: 175-DEU[other characters possible] Subject: Francisco Guillermo FLORES PEREZ</p> <p>This information is based on the screenshot obtained from this media site based in El Salvador (both graphics attached in this email came from that site):</p>

REQ0155035	Daniel	Fitzpatrick	Wallstreet Journal	GENERAL INQUIRY	Public Affairs	Press	12/5/2013 8:34	12/5/2013 8:34	<p>Hello. My name is Dan Fitzpatrick, and I am a banking reporter with The Wall Street Journal. I have a data request. I'm wondering if you might be able to share with me the number of SARs that are filed in an given year, and how specific you can get with that information. Can you be specific to a certain institution ? like, say, J.P. Morgan Chase & Co?</p>
REQ0156123	Jerin	Mathew	Internatioanl Business Times	GENERAL INQUIRY	Enforcement/Compliance/Policy	Press	12/18/2013 5:01	12/18/2013 5:01	<p>From: Jerin Mathew (b) (6) Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2013 1:32 AM To: FRC Subject: Bitcoin</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a correspondent working with IB Times UK. Could you please inform me about the US Treasury's stance on virtual currencies like Bitcoin?</p> <p>Are you planning to bring the such currencies under any regulations?</p> <p>Thanks</p> <p>Jerin Mathew</p> <p>Correspondent</p>
REQ0156312	Daigo	Mizushima	NHK Japan	Other	Assistance	Press	12/19/2013 7:29	12/19/2013 7:29	<p>Would like to schedule an interview with someone from FinCEN regarding a television program involving BitCoin.</p>

REQ0159171	Joe	McKnight	Washington Internet Daily Warren-News	MSB Requirements	Definitions	Press	1/23/2014 10:14	1/23/2014 10:14	<p>From: McKnight, Joe (b) (6) Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2014 12:46 PM To: FRC Subject: Comment request</p> <p>Hi,</p> <p>I'm a reporter with Washington Internet Daily, covering e-commerce and online gambling.</p> <p>Would Jennifer Shasky Calvery care to comment on CoinBet, the recent launched online gambling service that uses Bitcoin? Please see the link for more background:</p> <p>http://www.sacbee.com/2014/01/22/6092154/coinbet-launches-a-game-changing.html</p> <p>What do you make of their argument that, "since bitcoin isn't officially recognized as currency by the U.S. government, online gambling with Bitcoin is not an illegal event under the Wire Act or</p>
REQ0159474	Andrew	Tangel	LA Times	MSB Requirements	Registration List	Press	1/27/2014 9:50	1/27/2014 9:50	<p>From: Tangel, Andrew (b) (6) Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 2:29 PM To: FRC Subject: LA Times -- FinCEN</p> <p>I'm an LA Times reporter trying to get information about whether and how virtual currency exchanges can be licensed by FinCEN. Also, how many and which virtual currency exchanges are currently licensed?</p> <p>My contact information is below. I am on deadline today.</p> <p>Thanks, Andrew</p> <p>===== Andrew Tangel Reporter Los Angeles Times New York City Bureau</p>

REQ0160863	Idris	Aloma	Head of Investigations, Premium Times	Other	Assistance	Press	2/10/2014 4:20	2/10/2014 4:20	<p>Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 5:53 PM To: FRC Subject: Enquiries on investigation</p> <p>Dear Sir/ Ma,</p> <p>My name is Idris Akinbajo, a Nigerian journalist with Premium Times (www.premiumtimesng.com).</p> <p>I would like to find out if FinCEN is currently investigating any Nigerian bank based on violation of US laws. If so, which bank(s)?</p> <p>Particularly I would like to find out if FinCEN is investigating a Nigerian bank, Access Bank, based on any alleged violation of US laws.</p> <p>If any of the above investigations are currently being conducted, please state the status of the investigations.</p> <p>Thank you for your prompt response.</p> <p>Regards</p>
REQ0163192	Rick	Smith	Texas dept of Wildlife	LAW ENFORCEMENT	General Law Enforcement	Press	3/5/2014 8:31	3/5/2014 8:31	looking for state coordinator
REQ0163809	Julia	Unknown	First State Bank	MSB Requirements	Registration	Press	3/11/2014 10:48	3/11/2014 10:48	The banker accidently filed an RMSB on behalf of a client. What should they do? Can FinCEN delete it?
REQ0168648	Det	Limerick		LAW ENFORCEMENT	General Law Enforcement	Press	4/30/2014 11:43	4/30/2014 11:43	ASIS
REQ0176860	humbolt	danali		GENERAL INQUIRY	Law Enforcement	Press	8/4/2014 9:56	8/4/2014 9:56	questions about exit stamps on passports

REQ0177641	Zach	Fox	SNL Financial	AML Compliance	2014 Marijuana Guidance	Press	8/18/2014 10:48	8/18/2014 10:48	<p>From: Zach Fox (b) (6)</p> <p>Sent: Monday, August 18, 2014 1:34 PM</p> <p>To: FRC</p> <p>Subject: Media Request</p> <p>Hello:</p> <p>My name is Zach Fox, and I am a reporter with SNL Financial, a business publication. I am working on a follow-up to last week's speech by Director Calvery, which mentioned 105 financial institutions were servicing the marijuana industry.</p> <p>I've spoken with several dispensaries, and they expressed skepticism over the figure and report that banking services remain inaccessible. I was wondering if FinCEN could provide a breakdown of the types of financial institutions (e.g. how many banks, how many money-services businesses, etc.).</p> <p>Please let me know if FinCEN can provide any additional detail on the figures, or if it would like to issue a statement addressing</p>
REQ0197215	Collette	Foyer		MSB Requirements	De-Registration	Press	7/23/2015 11:34	7/23/2015 11:34	<p>Caller wants to de-register out of FinCENs MSB registrant website.</p>

Incident	Category	Customer	Summary	Description	Created On	ClosedDateTime
203794	FinCEN SAR	Internal Services	[EXTERNAL] media inquiry re: disclosure of suspicious activity reports	<p>Good morning,</p> <p>I'm a reporter with Bloomberg Law.</p> <p>I'm inquiring about potential liability of the law enforcement official who said he/she leaked SAR information per yesterday's New Yorker article (https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/missing-files-motivated-the-leak-of-michael-cohens-financial-records). Some questions:</p> <p>1) This release (https://archives.fbi.gov/archives/losangeles/press-releases/2011/la011111.htm) refers to a case where at the time finCEN said it was believed to be the first criminal conviction of a bank official for releasing a SAR without authorization.</p> <p>a. Have there been any such prosecutions since?</p> <p>b. Would a law enforcement official-as distinct from a bank official like in the Mendoza case-like-wise have the same criminal exposure under the law Mendoza was convicted under?</p> <p>c. Has a law enforcement official, to your organization's knowledge, ever been prosecuted for disclosing a SAR?</p> <p>Thanks for your time.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jordan Rubin</p>	5/17/2018 11:44	5/17/2018 14:39
204089	Other	Internal Services	[EXTERNAL] Statement re: New Yorker story on Michael Cohen/FinCEN	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Sylvan Lane and I'm a reporter for The Hill covering finance. I was wondering if FinCEN had a statement regarding the New Yorker story that alleged that two SARs related to Michael Cohen had been removed from the FinCEN database.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>-- Sylvan Lane Finance reporter The Hill: (b) (6)</p>	5/17/2018 15:20	5/18/2018 10:44

204339	Other	Ezra Dulis	Other Inquiry- including EEO, Congressional Liaison, Public Affairs	<p>Ezra Dulis (b) (6)</p> <p>Good morning,</p> <p>I'm an editor at Breitbart News who is working on an article about Ripple Inc., who FinCEN fined in 2014 over Bank Secrecy Act violations. I'm trying to fact check some claims that the company made before the UK parliament recently, particularly that the digital asset XRP was created by individuals and not as part of the Ripple/OpenCoin enterprise.</p> <p>In the publicly available FinCEN statement of facts and violations, item 1 says: "NewCoin, Inc. and OpenCoin, Inc. ("OpenCoin") are the predecessors of Ripple Labs. "</p> <p>I'm having trouble finding information about the incorporation of NewCoin Inc. and its relationship to OpenCoin. Can a FinCEN representative inform me when and where NewCoin Inc. was incorporated? Did NewCoin cease to exist before the incorporation of OpenCoin Inc? Or did NewCoin change its name to OpenCoin in the same way OpenCoin changed its name to Ripple Labs?</p> <p>Thank you, Ezra Dulis Deputy Managing Editor Breitbart News</p>	5/18/2018 9:21	6/13/2018 15:36
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207430	Other	Internal Services	[EXTERNAL] Request for an interview with Thomson Reuters	<p>My name is Paul Thies, and I'm the managing editor for Thomson Reuters family of thought leadership publications. We have a significant body of content on the technological disruption experienced by modern business, which we publish on our Answers On websites as well in select Answers print publications.</p> <p>I'm reaching out to see if we might set up some time to conduct an interview with a subject matter expert at FinCEN to discuss the latest developments concerning the fight against financial crime. The intent is to gather a collection of interviews with industry leaders and package them together so that our readers get a holistic view of the issue. The "Fighting Financial Crime" special report is a brand new project we're undertaking and it will be similar to a project we released on data privacy. (As part of the data privacy project, I had the pleasure of interviewing Rebecca Richards at the NSA and I believe she can vouch for the interview experience.)</p> <p>If you're agreeable to this request, we can work out the dates/times to conduct a 30-minute interview by WebEx. I will send over a list of questions in advance of the call so the FinCEN contact is able to consider how he or she wants to approach them. Once the interview is completed, we will send along a copy of the piece for review and sign off prior to publication on our Thomson Reuters channels. The intent would be to share the FinCEN thought leader's insights with our readers. Please let me know what you think.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p> <p>Paul Thies Vice President, Thought Leadership</p> <p>Thomson Reuters</p> <p>Phone: (b) (6)</p>	5/23/2018 17:07	6/14/2018 9:15
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210599	Other	Internal Services	[EXTERNAL] To Mr Steve Hudak from journalist from Latvia	<p>I am journalist from the largest Latvian media portal "Delfi" (www.delfi.lv). I wanted to contact the responsible person for cooperation with the media Mr Steve Hudak , but I did not find his e-mail on the website.</p> <p>I wanted to get some answers to a couple of questions about a visit that may have taken place in recent months. I wanted to know whether FinCEN has been visited by a person such as insolvency administrator Martins Bunkus in recent months? If so, was there a reason for his visit? Was it related to the Latvian bank "ABLV Bank"? If he met with FinCEN officials, then what was being discussed? Did he come to visit by himself or was there another person with him? If so, was this person Imants Parādnieks, a member of the Latvian parliament?</p> <p>I would appreciate if you could confirm that this email has been received and maybe forward it to MR Steve Hudak.</p> <p>Looking forward for an answer.</p> <p>All the best,</p> <p>Gunita Gailane</p> <p>--</p>	5/31/2018 3:44	6/14/2018 21:31
218809	AML Compliance	Maria unknown	Voice Message from (b) (6)	<p>Voice Message from (b) (6)</p> <p>Caller has different concepts around Marijuana and banking requirements.</p>	6/14/2018 15:22	6/29/2018 21:37

231575	Other	Aarthi Swaminathan	[EXTERNAL] Press request	<p>Dear team,</p> <p>I am a reporter with Yahoo Finance. I'm working on a story about the Latvian banking sector, on the bank of ABLV shutting down — and just looking into the other banks in the sector and whether they also have bad seeds within them.</p> <p>Would you be able to comment if you have completed any new investigations, or if you are to release any new information on this? And would you have anyone available to speak about how they discovered the bank engaging in large-scale illicit activities?</p> <p>I would appreciate any comment, any guidance in this.</p> <p>Look forward to your response.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Aarthi Swaminathan Yahoo Finance 770 Broadway, 9th Floor New York, New York 10036 (b) (6)</p>	7/13/2018 11:21	7/30/2018 21:38
233156	Other	Ben Phelan	[EXTERNAL] fact-checking query for Penguin-Random House	<p>Hi--I am a fact-checker working on a book project that is not about the Treasury Dept or FinCEN, but it does make mention of these organizations and states some basic facts about their purview etc. Would you kindly clarify something for me?</p> <p>The writer reports that FinCEN has "standing arrangements" with various countries around the world to share information, but that there is no such arrangement with Hong Kong. Is that accurate?</p> <p>He goes on to say that Hong Kong did contact the FinCEN desk in the Philippines about a potentially criminal financial matter he is reporting on, thinking it would be of interest of FinCEN. So he is not reporting any kind of hostility--just the absence of a formal agreement.</p> <p>I know you can't comment on whether HK contacted FinCEN, but other than that, does all of this sound plausible and correct?</p> <p>Best, Ben</p>	7/17/2018 13:50	8/1/2018 21:32

269084	AML Compliance	Randy Tucker	[EXTERNAL] Marijuana banking report	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>I'm a reporter with The Cincinnati (Ohio) Enquirer, and I have some questions about your Marijuana Banking Update. Specifically, I'm wondering if you can provide the names of the banks and credit unions in Ohio and/or the Cincinnati area that have filed the proper forms to accommodate marijuana related bank deposits.</p> <p>Randy Tucker</p> <p>Business reporter</p> <p>The Cincinnati Enquirer</p> <p>(b) (6)</p>	10/11/2018 10:44	
272689	Other	Internal Services	[EXTERNAL] Press inquiry -- Natalie Edwards and associate director	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I'm am inquiring about the complaint filed against Natalie Edwards in the leak case. The Justice Department also claims that Edwards had a co-conspirator who was in contact with the same reporter she was in touch with.</p> <p>The co-conspirator is described as an associate director at FinCEN.</p> <p>I was wondering if this is Thomas Ott or someone else.</p> <p>Thank you for any help, Chuck Ross The Daily Caller</p> <p>(b) (6)</p>	10/17/2018 15:21	