



governmentattic.org

"Rummaging in the government's attic"

Description of document: Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) Emails re Notification of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests from the Media 2019-2021

Requested date: 26-February-2021

Release date: 09-April-2021

Posted date: 15-November-2021

Source of document: FOIA Request
Office of Chief Counsel Disclosure Branch
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
1401 H Street, NW, Suite 469
Washington, DC 20005

COVID-19 preferred:
Email: FOIA.Reading.Room@tigta.treas.gov
[National FOIA Portal](#)
Fax: (202) 622-3339

The governmentattic.org web site ("the site") is a First Amendment free speech web site and is noncommercial and free to the public. The site and materials made available on the site, such as this file, are for reference only. The governmentattic.org web site and its principals have made every effort to make this information as complete and as accurate as possible, however, there may be mistakes and omissions, both typographical and in content. The governmentattic.org web site and its principals shall have neither liability nor responsibility to any person or entity with respect to any loss or damage caused, or alleged to have been caused, directly or indirectly, by the information provided on the governmentattic.org web site or in this file. The public records published on the site were obtained from government agencies using proper legal channels. Each document is identified as to the source. Any concerns about the contents of the site should be directed to the agency originating the document in question. GovernmentAttic.org is not responsible for the contents of documents published on the website.



INSPECTOR GENERAL
FOR TAX
ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

April 9, 2021

SENT VIA E-MAIL

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated and received on February 26, 2021, via the National FOIA Portal, seeking access to records maintained by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA). Specifically, you requested:

A copy of each email in the TIGTAcommunications email box (TIGTAcommunications@tigta.treas.gov) that has the subject line as "Notification of FOIA Request from Media". I limit this request to a search emails in that email box limited to the timeframe May 1, 2019 to the present. If for some reason this email account is not searchable, then I instead request the same search from the account of Amy Jones.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. 552(c). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

Per your request, we asked that TIGTA's Office of Information Technology conduct a search of the TIGTA Communications email box (TIGTACommunications@tigta.treas.gov) for emails with the subject line "Notification of FOIA Request from Media" received between May 1, 2019 and March 1, 2021, the day we commenced our records search. The search located 30 pages responsive to your request. We are releasing 10 pages in full and 20 pages in part. A copy is enclosed. We are asserting FOIA subsections (b)(6) and (b)(7)(C) as the justification for withholding.

FOIA subsection (b)(6) permits the withholding of records and information about individuals when disclosure of the information could result in a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. The withheld information consists of identifying information compiled with regard to individuals other than you. Releasing the withheld information would not shed any light into the Agency's performance of its official

functions, but instead could result in an invasion into the personal privacy of the individuals whose names and personal information have been withheld. As a result, the privacy interests of the third parties outweigh the public's interest in having the information released.

FOIA subsection (b)(7)(C) permits an agency to withhold "information compiled for law enforcement purposes the release of which could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." The withheld information consists of identifying information of individuals other than you. Releasing the withheld information would not shed any light into the Agency's performance of its official functions, but instead could result in an invasion into the personal privacy of the individuals whose names and personal information have been withheld. The information was compiled for law enforcement purposes and the privacy interests of the third parties outweigh the public's interest in having the information released. As a result, this information has been withheld in response to your request.

The cost incurred to process your FOIA request was less than \$25.00, the threshold set by Treasury's FOIA regulation, so no fees were assessed.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact Julissa Hurtado, Government Information Specialist, at (202) 622-3087 or email Julissa.Hurtado@tigta.treas.gov and refer to Disclosure File # 2021-FOI-00112. Alternatively, you may contact me, TIGTA's FOIA Public Liaison, at Amy.Jones@tigta.treas.gov, for further assistance or to discuss any aspect of your request.

In addition, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, NARA, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001; e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at (202) 741-5770; toll free at 1 (877) 684-6448; or facsimile at (202) 741-5769.

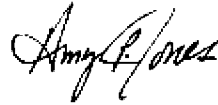
Finally, if you are not satisfied with this determination in response to your request, you may administratively appeal to TIGTA's Office of Chief Counsel, which is continuing to process FOIA and Privacy Act appeals during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there may be delays in processing appeals submitted via U.S. mail or commercial carrier. Therefore, if you decide to appeal, we encourage you to use electronic means, either e-mail to FOIA.Reading.Room@tigta.treas.gov or fax to (202) 622-3339.

If you must use mail, please address the envelope as follows:

Freedom of Information Act Appeal
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
Office of Chief Counsel
1401 H Street, NW, Suite 469
Washington, DC 20005

Your appeal must be electronically transmitted or postmarked within 90 days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy P. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Amy P. Jones
Disclosure Officer and
FOIA Public Liaison

Enclosure

From: [Greek David E TIGTA](#)
To: [*TIGTA Communications](#)
Cc: [Jones Amy P TIGTA](#); (b)(6)
Subject: Notification of FOIA Request from Media
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 10:35:02 AM
Attachments: 2020-FOI-00025 - de Haldevang - Request Description.pdf

Good Morning,

FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

This e-mail is a notification that on November 18, 2019, the Disclosure Branch received the attached FOIA request from Max de Haldevang, Quartz Media. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 927-9193.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

David Greek

Government Information Specialist

TIGTA Office of Chief Counsel

202-927-9193 (Desk)

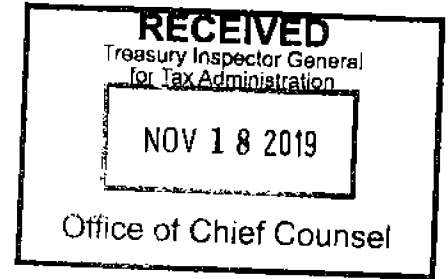
202-622-3339 (Fax)

david.greek@tigta.treas.gov

***TIGTA FOIA Reading Room**

From: Max de Haldevang <mdh@qz.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2019 4:59 PM
To: *TIGTA FOIA Reading Room
Subject: FOIA request: Case number (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed



Dear all,

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

I request all records held by TIGTA related to the case with reference number (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

As a representative of the news media I am only required to pay for the direct cost of duplication after the first 100 pages. Release of this information is in the public interest because it relates to alleged (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) The information is being sought on behalf of Quartz, a global business publication, for dissemination to the general public.

Further, I request expedited processing of the request. There is an urgency to inform the public about the case, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

If any specific passages prevent you from releasing this information, please redact those passages. I ask that you justify all deletions—or a rejection of the request—by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

I am willing to pay up to \$25 for the processing of this request. Please inform me if the estimated fees will exceed this limit before processing my request.

As I am making this request as a journalist and this information is of timely value, I would appreciate your communicating with me by email (mdh@qz.com) or telephone (b)(6) rather than by mail, if you have questions regarding this request.

I look forward to your reply within 20 business days, as the statute requires. Thank you for your assistance.

Thank you for your consideration,

--

Max de Haldevang

Reporter

Quartz

(b)(6)

Twitter: [@MddeH](#)

From: Greek David E TIGTA
To: *TIGTA Communications
Cc: Jones Amy P TIGTA; (b)(6)
Subject: Notification of FOIA Request from Media
Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 4:39:20 PM
Attachments: 2020-FOI-00119 - Leopold - Request description.pdf

FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

This e-mail is a notification that on April 28, 2020, the Disclosure Branch received the attached FOIA request from Jason Leopold, BuzzFeed News. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 878-9194.

Thank you.

Respectfully,
David Greek
Government Information Specialist
TIGTA Office of Chief Counsel
202-927-9193 (Desk)
202-878-9194 (Cell)
202-622-3339 (Fax)
david.greek@tigta.treas.gov

RECEIVED

By vmrive00 at 11:43 am, Apr 28, 2020

From: Bowers Diane K TIGTA
To: (b)(6)
Cc: Jones Amy P TIGTA (b)(6)
Subject: FW: 2020-04-244
Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 11:13:55 AM
Attachments: 2020-04-244 FOIA Request.pdf

Hi Cawana,

We accept the referral of this FOIA request for TIGTA records and will handle accordingly.

Thanks!

Diane

Diane K. Bowers

Diane K. Bowers
Government Information Specialist
Office of Chief Counsel, Disclosure Branch
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
202-927-7043 (office)
202-622-4068 (main)
202-622-3339 (fax)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 10:42 AM
To: Bowers Diane K TIGTA <Diane.Bowers@tigta.treas.gov>; Jones Amy P TIGTA <Amy.Jones@tigta.treas.gov>
Subject: 2020-04-244

Good morning,

The above indicated FOIA request is being processed within Departmental Offices and the requester indicated in his request that he would like for your office to also conduct a search. We will notify the requester that the request was routed to your office for appropriate action.

Thank you,



Cawana Pearson
FOIA Case Manager, FOIA and Transparency
Privacy, Transparency, and Records

U.S. Department of the Treasury

Telephone: (b)(6)

Email: (b)(6)

SharePoint

Newsfeed OneDrive Sites  

Title

Online FOIA ID 6636531cbdec4151ba5f17ff15195602

First Name Jason

Middle Initial N/A

Last Name Leopold

Company Organization BuzzFeed News

Phone Number 2132704334

Other Phone Number N/A

Fax Number N/A

Street Address Line1 (b)(6)

Street Address Line2 N/A

City (b)(6)

State (b)(6)

Zip (b)(6)

Country USA

Email Address (b)(6)

Delivery Method Electronic Copy

Bureau Departmental Offices (Headquarters)

Description I request disclosure from the US Department of the Treasury the following records:

1. Emails, text messages, memos, directives, letters, talking points, legal guidance and legal opinions, mentioning or referring to discussions between Treasury officials and President Trump and the Executive Office of the President and the IRS that relate to the president's signature, in any form, appearing on stimulus checks the Internal Revenue Service is sending to Americans.

The timeframe for this search is April 1, 2020 through the date the search for responsive records is conducted. Please omit news clippings.

Please search the following offices for responsive records. You may limit it to the heads of each office and their immediate aides and deputies.

Secretary Steve Mnuchin, Deputy Secretary, Office of the Chief of Staff, General Counsel, Inspector General, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, Office of Economic Policy, Office of Tax Policy, Office of Domestic Finance.

Reasonably Foreseeable Harm. The FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 amended the FOIA as follows (5 USC 552(a)(8)):

(A) An agency shall—

(i) withhold information under this section only if—

(I) the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by an exemption described in subsection (b); or

(II) disclosure is prohibited by law; and

(ii) (I) consider whether partial disclosure of information is possible whenever the agency determines that a full disclosure of a requested record is not possible; and

(b) take reasonable steps necessary to segregate and release nonexempt information. . . .

Treasury should not fail to comply with this mandatory part of the FOIA as recently amended by Congress.

Fee Category: Media/Press
 Request Type: FOIA
 Request Fee Waiver: 1
 Request Expedited Processing: 0
 Will Pay Up To: 0.00
 Enter Electronic Signature Code: 6636531cbdec4151ba5f17ff15195602
 Full Name: N/A
 Created Date: 4/15/2020 4:31:21 AM
 UserRefCode: 6636531cbdec4151ba5f17ff15195602
 Processed Status: 2020-04-244 site created on 4/24/2020 10:44:02 AM

Expedited Processing Justification: N/A

Expedited Request Date: N/A

Fee Waiver Justification: I am the senior investigative reporter for BuzzFeed News and formerly senior investigative reporter and on-air correspondent for VICE News. Additionally, my reporting has been published in The Guardian, The Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times, Salon, CBS Marketwatch, The Los Angeles Times, The Nation, Truthout, Al Jazeera English and Al Jazeera America.

I request a complete waiver of all search and duplication fees. If my request for a waiver is denied, I request that I be considered a member of the news media for fee purposes.

Under 5 U.S.C. §552(a)(4)(A)(iii), "Documents shall be furnished without any charge ... if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." Disclosure in this case meets the statutory criteria, as the records sought detail the operations and activities of government. This request is also not primarily in my commercial request, as I am seeking the records as a journalist to analyze and freely release to members of the public.

If I am not granted a complete fee waiver, I request to be considered a member of the news media for fee purposes. I am willing to pay all reasonable duplication expenses incurred in processing this FOIA request.

I will appeal any denial of my request for a waiver administratively and to the courts if necessary.

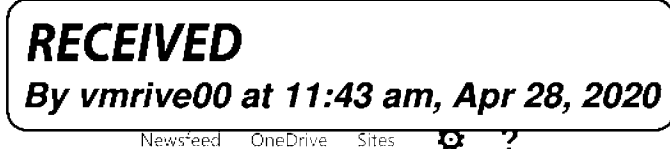
Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions concerning this request.
 Thank you. I appreciate your time and attention to this matter.--

Fee Waiver Request Date: 2020-04-15 04:31.21

Request Date: 4/15/2020 4:31:21 AM

Created at 4/23/2020 10:10 PM by SpAdmin
 Last modified at 4/24/2020 10:44 AM by Reid, Kathy

Close



SharePoint

Title

Online FOIA ID 6636531cbdec4151ba5f17ff15195602

First Name Jason

Middle Initial N/A

Last Name Leopold

Company Organization BuzzFeed News

Phone Number 2132704334

Other Phone Number N/A

Fax Number N/A

Street Address Line1 (b)(6)

Street Address Line2 N/A

City (b)(6)

State (b)(6)

Zip (b)(6)

Country USA

Email Address (b)(6)

Delivery Method Electronic Copy

Bureau Departmental Offices (Headquarters)

Description I request disclosure from the US Department of the Treasury the following records:

1. Emails, text messages, memos, directives, letters, talking points, legal guidance and legal opinions, mentioning or referring to discussions between Treasury officials and President Trump and the Executive Office of the President and the IRS that relate to the president's signature, in any form, appearing on stimulus checks the Internal Revenue Service is sending to Americans.

The timeframe for this search is April 1, 2020 through the date the search for responsive records is conducted. Please omit news clippings.

Please search the following offices for responsive records. You may limit it to the heads of each office and their immediate aides and deputies.

Secretary Steve Mnuchin, Deputy Secretary, Office of the Chief of Staff, General Counsel, Inspector General, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, Office of Economic Policy, Office of Tax Policy, Office of Domestic Finance.

Reasonably Foreseeable Harm. The FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 amended the FOIA as follows (5 USC 552(a)(8)):

(A) An agency shall—

(i) withhold information under this section only if—

(I) the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by an exemption described in subsection (b); or

(II) disclosure is prohibited by law; and

(ii) (I) consider whether partial disclosure of information is possible whenever the agency determines that a full disclosure of a requested record is not possible; and

(b) take reasonable steps necessary to segregate and release nonexempt information. . . .

Treasury should not fail to comply with this mandatory part of the FOIA as recently amended by Congress.

Fee Category: Media/Press
 Request Type: FOIA
 Request Fee Waiver: 1
 Request Expedited Processing: 0
 Will Pay Up To: 0.00
 Enter Electronic Signature Code: 6636531cbdec4151ba5f17ff15195602
 Full Name: N/A
 Created Date: 4/15/2020 4:31:21 AM
 UserRefCode: 6636531cbdec4151ba5f17ff15195602
 Processed Status: 2020-04-244 site created on 4/24/2020 10:44:02 AM

Expedited Processing Justification: N/A

Expedited Request Date: N/A

Fee Waiver Justification: I am the senior investigative reporter for BuzzFeed News and formerly senior investigative reporter and on-air correspondent for VICE News. Additionally, my reporting has been published in The Guardian, The Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times, Salon, CBS Marketwatch, The Los Angeles Times, The Nation, Truthout, Al Jazeera English and Al Jazeera America.

I request a complete waiver of all search and duplication fees. If my request for a waiver is denied, I request that I be considered a member of the news media for fee purposes.

Under 5 U.S.C. §552(a)(4)(A)(iii), "Documents shall be furnished without any charge ... if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." Disclosure in this case meets the statutory criteria, as the records sought detail the operations and activities of government. This request is also not primarily in my commercial request, as I am seeking the records as a journalist to analyze and freely release to members of the public.

If I am not granted a complete fee waiver, I request to be considered a member of the news media for fee purposes. I am willing to pay all reasonable duplication expenses incurred in processing this FOIA request.

I will appeal any denial of my request for a waiver administratively and to the courts if necessary.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions concerning this request.
 Thank you. I appreciate your time and attention to this matter.--

Fee Waiver Request Date: 2020-04-15 04:31:21

Request Date: 4/15/2020 4:31:21 AM

Created at 4/23/2020 10:10 PM by SpAdmin
 Last modified at 4/24/2020 10:44 AM by Reid, Kathy

Close

From: Field Carroll TIGTA
To: *TIGTA Communications
Cc: (b)(6); Jones Amy P TIGTA; Barnes David J TIGTA; (b)(6)
TIGTA; Field Carroll TIGTA
Subject: Notification of FOIA Request from Media
Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 12:43:02 PM
Attachments: 2020-FOI-00174 Safi incoming.pdf

FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

This e-mail is a notification that on July 8, 2020, the Disclosure Branch received the attached FOIA request from Marlo Safi, The Daily Caller. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 893-5660 and reference Disclosure case number 2020-FOI-00174. Thank you.

Carroll Field
Government Information Specialist
Office of Chief Counsel Disclosure Branch
Mobile: (202) 893-5660
Fax: (202) 622-3339
Email: Carroll.Field@tigta.treas.gov

RECEIVED

By vmrive00 at 6:42 am, Jul 08, 2020

From: Marlo Safi
To: *TIGTA FOIA Reading Room
Subject: FOIA Request
Date: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 5:29:04 PM

Hello. I'm a reporter at Daily Caller, and I am making a FOIA request. I would like the record of the employee or intern who manages the Pennsylvania Treasury's Twitter account, as of today, July 7 2020.

The name of the person/persons and their details of employment/association with the Treasury would be appreciated.

I agree to pay any FOIA processing fees.

Thank you!

Marlo Safi

From: Greek David E TIGTA
To: *TIGTA Communications
Cc: Jones Amy P TIGTA; Bowers Diane K TIGTA; (b)(6) Barnes David J TIGTA
Subject: Notification of FOIA Request from Media
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 11:05:38 AM
Attachments: 2020-FOI-00227 - Dunagan - Request Description.pdf

FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

This e-mail is a notification that on September 29, 2020 the Disclosure Branch received the attached FOIA request from Sean Dunagan, Judicial Watch, Inc. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 878-9194. Thank you.

Respectfully,

David Greek

Government Information Specialist

TIGTA Office of Chief Counsel

202-927-9193 (Desk)

202-878-9194 (Cell)

202-622-3339 (Fax)

david.greek@tigta.treas.gov

RECEIVED
By vmrive00 at 2:53 pm, Sep 29, 2020

From: Sean Dunagan
To: *TIGTA FOIA Reading Room
Subject: FOIA Request
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 2:48:10 PM
Attachments: 6008 req.pdf

Please find attached a Freedom of Information Act request for the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Sean A. Dunagan
Senior Investigator
Judicial Watch, Inc.

(b)(6)

RECEIVED**By vmrive00 at 2:53 pm, Sep 29, 2020**

September 29, 2020

VIA EMAIL (FOIA.Reading.Room@tigta.treas.gov)

Office of Chief Counsel Disclosure Branch
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
1401 H Street, NW, Suite 469
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Freedom of Information Officer:

Judicial Watch, Inc. (“Judicial Watch”) hereby requests that the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration produce the following records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (“FOIA”), and the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C § 552a:

Any and all records regarding, concerning, or related to the disclosure of confidential tax information of President Donald Trump, the Trump Organization, and/or any related business entities. For purposes of clarification, this information was published by the New York Times on September 27, 2020. This request includes, but is not limited to, the following:

Any and all related records of communication between any official, employee, or representative of the Office of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration and any other individual or entity, and

Any and all related tips or other information provided to the Office of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration by any individual or entity.

Please determine whether to comply with this request within the time period required by FOIA and notify us immediately of your determination, the reasons therefor, and the right to appeal any adverse determination to the head of the agency or his or her designee. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(i). Please also produce all responsive records in an electronic format (“pdf” is preferred), if convenient. We also are willing to accept a “rolling production” of responsive records if it will facilitate a more timely production.

Department of the Treasury**September 29, 2020****Page 2 of 3**

Judicial Watch also hereby requests a waiver of both search and duplication fees. We are entitled to a waiver of search fees because we are a “representative of the news media.” See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(II); see also *Cause of Action v. Federal Trade Comm.*, 799 F.3d 1108 (D.C. Cir. 2015); *Nat’l Sec. Archive v. U.S. Dep’t of Defense*, 880 F.2d 1381 (D.C. Cir. 1989). For more than twenty years, Judicial Watch has used FOIA and other investigative tools to gather information about the operations and activities of government, a subject of undisputed public interest. We submit over 400 FOIA requests annually. Our personnel, which includes experienced journalists and professional writers on staff and under contract, use their editorial skills to turn this raw information into distinct works that are disseminated to the public via our monthly newsletter, which has a circulation of over 300,000, weekly email update, which has over 600,000 subscribers, investigative bulletins, special reports, www.judicialwatch.org website, *Corruption Chronicles* blog, and social media, including Facebook and Twitter, among other distribution channels. We have authored several books, including *Corruption Chronicles* by Tom Fitton (Threshold Editions, July 24, 2012), and *Clean House* by Tom Fitton (Threshold Editions, Aug. 30, 2016). In 2012, we produced a documentary film, “District of Corruption,” directed by Stephen K. Bannon. Our “news media” status has been confirmed in court rulings. See, e.g., *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. U.S. Dep’t of Defense*, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 44003, *1 (D.D.C. June 28, 2006); *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. U.S. Dep’t of Justice*, 133 F. Supp.2d 52 (D.D.C. 2000). As a tax exempt, 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, we have no commercial interests and do not seek the requested records for any commercial use. Rather, we intend to use the requested records as part of our ongoing investigative journalism and public education efforts to promote integrity, transparency, and accountability in government and fidelity to the rule of law.

Judicial Watch also is entitled to a waiver of both search fees and duplication fees because “disclosure of the information is in the public interest.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). Disclosure of the requested records undoubtedly will shed light on “the operations or activities of the government.” *Cause of Action*, 799 F.3d at 1115 (quoting 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii)). Disclosure also is “likely to contribute significantly to the public understanding” of those operations or activities because, among other reasons, Judicial Watch intends to disseminate both the records and its findings to “a reasonably broad audience of persons interested in the subject” via its newsletter, email updates, investigative bulletins, website, blog, and its other, regular distribution channels. *Cause of Action*, 799 F.3d at 1116 (quoting *Carney v. U.S. Dep’t of Justice*, 19 F.3d 807, 815 (2d Cir. 1994)). Again, Judicial Watch does not seek the requested records for any commercial benefit or for its own “primary” benefit, but instead seeks them as part of its ongoing investigative journalism and public education efforts to promote integrity, transparency, and accountability in government and fidelity to the rule of law.

In the event our request for a waiver of search and/or duplication costs is denied, Judicial Watch agrees to pay up to \$300.00 in search and/or duplication costs. Judicial Watch requests that it be contacted before any such costs are incurred, in order to

Department of the Treasury

September 29, 2020

Page 3 of 3

prioritize search and duplication efforts.

If you do not understand this request or any portion thereof, or if you feel you require clarification of this request or any portion thereof, please contact us immediately at 202-646-5172 or sdunagan@judicialwatch.org.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Sean Dunagan
Judicial Watch, Inc.

From: Bowers Diane K TIGTA
To: *TIGTA Communications; (b)(6)
Cc: Jones Amy P TIGTA; (b)(6) Barnes David J TIGTA
Subject: Notification of FOIA Request from Media
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 10:32:51 AM
Attachments: Leopold Incoming Request.pdf

FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

This e-mail is a notification that on November 17, 2020, the Disclosure Branch received the attached FOIA request from Jason Leopold, BuzzFeed News. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 893-5698. Thank you.

Diane K. Bowers

Diane K. Bowers
Government Information Specialist
Office of Chief Counsel, Disclosure Branch
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
202-893-5698 (cell)
202-622-4068 (main)
202-622-3339 (fax)

RECEIVED

By vmrive00 at 9:21 am, Nov 17, 2020

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]; FinCENFOIA@fincen.gov; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; Jones Amy P TIGTA; TIGTA FOIA Reading Room;
foia-pa@occ.treas.gov; [REDACTED]; FinCENFOIA@fincen.gov;
Subject: 2021-FOIA-00180 Is Being Processed in Departmental Offices and Routed to Your Office for Direct Response to the Requester
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 8:29:25 AM
Attachments: 2021-FOIA-00180_FOIA Tracking Number.pdf
2021-FOIA-00180_Clarification Received from the Requester With Regards to Referencing DOJ in the Request.pdf

Good morning,

Our office is in receipt of the above indicated FOIA request. The requester seeks records from Departmental Offices and each of the bureaus. Please note that the requester referenced Department of the Justice in one portion of the request. I reached out to the requester and he advised it was a typo and he should have referenced Department of the Treasury. The requester will be advised that his request has been routed to the bureaus for direct response to him.

Thank you,

Cawana Pearson
FOIA Case Manager, FOIA and Transparency
Privacy, Transparency, and Records
U.S. Department of the Treasury
Telephone: (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)

FOIA Request 171771

The following list contains the entire submission submitted November 12, 2020 12:30:02pm ET, and is formatted for ease of viewing and printing.

Contact information

First name	jason
Last name	leopold
Mailing Address	(b)(6)
City	
State/Province	
Postal Code	
Country	United States
Phone	2132704334
Company/Organization	buzzfeed nes
Email	(b)(6)

Request

Request ID 171771
Confirmation ID 171246

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau Bureau of Engraving & Printing Bureau of the Fiscal Service Departmental Offices Financial Crimes Enforcement Network Internal Revenue Service Office Of The Comptroller of the Currency Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration United States Mint This is a request for records under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552 and the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a. This request should be considered under both statutes to maximize the release of records. This request seeks expedited processing.

REQUESTER INFORMATION Name: Jason Leopold Position: Senior Investigative Reporter, BuzzFeed News Address: (b)(6)

(b)(6) Email: (b)(6) RECORDS SOUGHT I request from all Department of Treasury components, including the Department of Treasury HQ, addressed here the following records: 1. Copies of any and all Department of Treasury transition materials that were prepared by Department of Justice component officials for President-Elect Joseph Biden and Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris and their administration. 2. Any and all records of correspondence, such as emails, letters, memos, directives, talking points, relating or referring to decisions to turn over or withhold transition materials to President-Elect Joseph Biden and Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris and their administration. The search may be limited to department heads and their immediate aides. 3. All communications between the component heads and their immediate aides and the White House and the General Services Administration mentioning or referring to decisions to turn over or withhold transition related materials to to President-Elect Joseph Biden and Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris and their administration. Reasonably Foreseeable Harm. The FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 amended the FOIA as follows (5 USC 552(a)(8)): (A) An agency shall— (i) withhold information under this section only if— (I) the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by an exemption described in subsection (b); or (II) disclosure is prohibited by law; and (ii) (I) consider whether partial disclosure of information is possible whenever the agency determines that a full disclosure of a requested record is not possible; and (II) take reasonable steps necessary to segregate and release nonexempt information. . . . Treasury and its components should not fail to comply with this mandatory part of the FOIA as recently amended by Congress. The Agency is required to identify what reasonably foreseeable harm would flow from release of the information withheld, nor did it consider a partial disclosure of the information, taking reasonable steps to segregate and release nonexempt information. INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING SEARCH 1. Request for Public Records: Please search for any records even if they are already publicly available. 2. Request for Electronic and Paper/Manual Searches: I request that searches of all electronic and paper/manual indices, filing systems, and locations for any and all records relating or referring to the subject of my request be conducted. I further request that the agencies conduct a search of its "soft files" as well as files in its locked cabinets. 3. Request regarding Photographs and other Visual Materials: I request that any photographs or other visual materials responsive to my request be released to me in their original or comparable forms, quality, and resolution. For example, if a photograph was taken digitally, or if the agencies maintains a photograph digitally, I request disclosure of the original digital image file, not a reduced resolution version of that image file nor a printout and scan of that image file. Likewise, if a photograph was originally taken as a color photograph, I request disclosure of that photograph as a color image, not a black and white image. Please contact me for any clarification on this point. 4. Request for Duplicate Pages: I request disclosure of any and all supposedly "duplicate" pages. Scholars analyze records not only for the information available on any given page, but also for the relationships between that information and information on pages surrounding it. As such, though certain pages may have been previously released to me, the existence of those pages within new context renders

**Request
description**

Supporting documentation

Fees

Request category ID media

Fee waiver yes

Explanation

I am the senior investigative reporter for BuzzFeed News and formerly senior investigative reporter and on-air correspondent for VICE News. Additionally, my reporting has been published in The Guardian, The Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times, Salon, CBS Marketwatch, The Los Angeles Times, The Nation, Truthout, Al Jazeera English and Al Jazeera America. I request a complete waiver of all search and duplication fees. If my request for a waiver is denied, I request that I be considered a member of the news media for fee purposes. Under 5 U.S.C. §552(a)(4)(A)(iii), “Documents shall be furnished without any charge ... if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.” Disclosure in this case meets the statutory criteria, as the records sought detail the operations and activities of government. This request is also not primarily in my commercial request, as I am seeking the records as a journalist to analyze and freely release to members of the public. If I am not granted a complete fee waiver, I request to be considered a member of the news media for fee purposes. I am willing to pay all reasonable duplication expenses incurred in processing this FOIA request. I will appeal any denial of my request for a waiver administratively and to the courts if necessary. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions concerning this request. Thank you. I appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

Willing to pay \$25

Expedited processing

Expedited Processing yes

I ask that my request be given expedited processing because there is an urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity, and I am a person primarily engaged in disseminating information. As senior investigative reporter at BuzzFeed News, I am a full-time member of the news media. I therefore qualify as a person primarily engaged in disseminating information. A potential crisis is brewing as is the peaceful transfer of power. Over the weekend of November 7, 2020, the 2020 presidential election was called for Joseph Biden, who surpassed 270 electoral votes. President Donald Trump has refused to concede the election to President-Elect Biden and has invented conspiracy theories about widespread voter fraud, claiming, without evidence that he is the rightful winner of the presidential election. It has been reported that the White House has advised executive branch agencies to withhold turning over transitions materials prepared for the incoming Biden-Harris administration, threatening the timely transition of power. It is crucial that my request be granted expedited treatment and records produced to me on an expedited basis so that I may inform the public about these matters. These records are not being requested for commercial purposes. I intend to use these records to write news stories and inform the public about actual government activity, concerning the novel coronavirus global pandemic.

Explanation BuzzFeed News is a global news organization with more than 200 journalists stationed in North America, South America, Europe, Asia and the Pacific. BuzzFeed News has been recognized as a “representative of the news media” for fee assessment purposes by every federal agency that has received our FOIA requests. Thank you for your consideration of this request. I certify the foregoing to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. /s/ _____ JL _____ Jason Leopold The very purpose of the FOIA is to lessen the public’s dependency on official government statements and open the underlying documents to public scrutiny. This is clearly an instance in which expedited processing of a FOIA request is warranted. These records are not being requested for commercial purposes. I intend to use these records to write news stories and inform the public about actual government activity, concerning the novel coronavirus global pandemic. BuzzFeed News is a global news organization with more than 200 journalists stationed in North America, South America, Europe, Asia and the Pacific. BuzzFeed News has been recognized as a “representative of the news media” for fee assessment purposes by every federal agency that has received our FOIA requests. Thank you for your consideration of this request. As applicable Department regulations provide, I will anticipate your determination within ten (10) calendar days. I certify this statement to be true and correct.—JASON LEOPOLD

From: Jason Leopold
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: 2021-FOIA-00180 Request for Clarificatio0
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 4:38:06 PM

**** Caution:** External email. Pay attention to suspicious links and attachments. Send suspicious email to suspect@treasury.gov **

It should say Department of Treasury. That was a typo on my part. Apologies and thank you for reaching out.

Best,
Jason

Jason Leopold
BuzzFeed News
Senior Investigative Reporter
(213) 270-4334 (Signal)
@jasonleopold
6824 Lexington Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90038

Send me documents and tips, securely and anonymously: tips.buzzfeed.com
PGP fingerprint: ACE4 2447 7163 6F94 4466 3591 5E7A E882 D89B DFFB
[https://hyperlink.services.treasury.gov/agency.do?
origin=https://www.buzzfeednews.com/author/jasonleopold](https://hyperlink.services.treasury.gov/agency.do?origin=https://www.buzzfeednews.com/author/jasonleopold)

On Mon, Nov 16, 2020, 12:56 PM <(b)(6)> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr. Leopold,

My apologies.....your request is number 2021-FOIA-00180 not 00183 as mentioned in my earlier email.

Our office is in receipt of your FOIA request identified above. Before we can process your request, we need clarification concerning the records you seek. In item #1 of your request, you seek, "Copies of any and all Department of Treasury transition materials that were prepared by Department of Justice component officials for President-Elect Joseph Biden and Vice President-

Elect Kamala Harris and their administration.” Did you intend to reference Department of Justice or Department of the Treasury? We just require clarification before we move forward.

Thank you,

Cawana Pearson

FOIA Case Manager, FOIA and Transparency

Privacy, Transparency, and Records

U.S. Department of the Treasury

Telephone: (b)(6)

Email: (b)(6)

From: Greek David E TIGTA
To: *TIGTA Communications; (b)(6)
Cc: Jones Amy P TIGTA; (b)(6) Barnes David J TIGTA; Bowers Diane K TIGTA
Subject: Notification of FOIA Request from Media
Date: Monday, February 22, 2021 4:54:27 PM
Attachments: 2021-FOI-00105 - Featherston - Request Description.pdf

Good Afternoon,

FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

This e-mail is a notification that on February 19, 2021 the Disclosure Branch received the attached FOIA request from Emily Featherston, InvestigateTV. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 878-9194. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Dave Greek

Government Information Specialist

TIGTA Office of Chief Counsel

202-878-9194 (Direct)

202-622-3339 (Fax)

david.greek@tigta.treas.gov

The following list contains the entire submission submitted February 19, 2021 02:00:02pm ET, and is formatted for ease of viewing and printing.

Contact information

First name	Emily
Last name	Featherston
Mailing Address	(b)(6)
City	
State/Province	
Postal Code	
Country	United States
Phone	(b)(6)
Company/Organization	InvestigateTV
Email	emily.featherston@investigatetv.com

Request

Request ID	196591
Confirmation ID	196066

Request description	We are requesting copies of any reports done by or given to TIGTA about debts not collected or accounts written-off due to the passing of the Collection Statute Expiration Date, whether these be annual, quarterly or monthly totals. We are requesting any and all publicly available data sets, reports to congressional committees, or reports/correspondence to/with Treasury officials regarding these written-off accounts. If possible, we would like this information in an electronic format.
----------------------------	--

Supporting documentation

Fees

Request category ID	media
Fee waiver	yes

Explanation Disclosure of the requested information to me is in the public interest because it will be distributed to more than 90 television stations across the country and is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of IRS write offs and uncollected debts. It's not primarily in my commercial interest.

Willing to pay \$25

Expedited processing

Expedited Processing yes

Explanation We ask for expedited request due to current legislation and committee hearings: Chairman Yarmuth stated at the House Budget Committee's July hearing for the need of federal investments in technology, "funding cuts over the past decade have prevented the IRS from modernizing its IT systems, deteriorating the agency's ability to not only carry out its core function of tax collection and enforcement, but also needlessly prolonging the delivery of stimulus payments to workers and families during the coronavirus pandemic and recession...we have to invest in modernization now." H.R. 6076: IRS Enhancement and Tax Gap Reduction Act of 2020 was introduced this year to provide for increased audits, improved technology infrastructure, and increased staff for the Internal Revenue Service for the purpose of reducing the tax gap, and for other purposes.

From: Field Carroll TIGTA
To: *TIGTA Communications; (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) Jones Amy P TIGTA; Barnes David J TIGTA; (b)(6)
(b)(6) Field Carroll TIGTA
Subject: Notification of FOIA Request from Media
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:06:17 PM
Attachments: 2021-FOI-00107 Cyphers MuckRock incoming.pdf

FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

This e-mail is a notification that on February 23, 2021, the Disclosure Branch received the attached FOIA request from Bennett Cyphers, MuckRock News. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 893-5660 and reference Disclosure case number 2021-FOI-00107. Thank you.

Carroll Field
Government Information Specialist
Office of Chief Counsel, Disclosure Branch
Mobile: 202-893-5660
Carroll.Field@tigta.treas.gov

From: 108847-04815301@requests.muckrock.com
To: TIGTA FOIA Reading Room
Subject: Freedom of Information Act Request: TIGTA OSINT subscriptions
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 4:51:46 PM

Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
 FOIA Office
 #469
 1401 H Street Northwest
 Washington, DC 20005

February 23, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, I hereby request the following records:

According to a letter from Inspector General J. Russell George to Senators Wyden and Warren, dated 2/18/2021.

> CI provided us [TIGTA] a listing of nineteen web-based subscriptions or products used for open source intelligence.

A copy of the letter is available at <https://hyperlink.services.treasury.gov/agency.tigta?origin=https://s.wsj.net/public/resources/documents/Response.pdf>

I hereby request:

- The listing of web-based subscriptions or products used for open source intelligence (OSINT) provided by the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation (CI) to the Inspector General;
- Any purchase contracts associated with subscriptions or products referenced in the aforementioned listing;
- Any information or letters shared by CI that accompanied the aforementioned documents.

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Bennett Cyphers

Filed via MuckRock.com

E-mail (Preferred): 108847-04815301@requests.muckrock.com

Upload documents directly: https://hyperlink.services.treasury.gov/agency.tigta?origin=https://accounts.muckrock.com/accounts/login?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.muckrock.com%2Faccounts%2Flogin%2F%3Fnext%3D%252Faccounts%252Fagency_login%252Ftreasury-inspector-general-for-tax-administration-2475%252Ftigta-osint-subscriptions-108847%252F%253Femail%253DFOIA.Reading.Room%252540tigta.treas.gov&url_auth_token=AAAUJFJTUQeHmb8GD1pTd9bMyZg%3A1JFfak%3ASWVAPj5JpaQF5RKeGO-XRLq7VN0

108847%252F%253Femail%253DFOIA.Reading.Room%252540tigta.treas.gov&url_auth_token=AAAUJFJTUQeHmb8GD1pTd9bMyZg%3A1JFfak%3ASWVAPj5JpaQF5RKeGO-XRLq7VN0

Is this email coming to the wrong contact? Something else wrong? Use the above link to let us know.

For mailed responses, please address (see note):

MuckRock News
 DEPT MR 108847
 411A Highland Ave
 Somerville, MA 02144-2516

PLEASE NOTE: This request is not filed by a MuckRock staff member, but is being sent through MuckRock by the above in order to better track, share, and manage public records requests. Also note that improperly addressed (i.e., with the requester's name rather than "MuckRock News" and the department number) requests might be returned as undeliverable.