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Description of document: Department of the Interior (DOI) Office of Inspector General (OIG) Investigations Closed during CY2020

Requested date: 29-December-2020

Release date: 26-February-2021

Posted date: 22-May-2023

Source of document: FOIA Officer  
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U.S. Department of the Interior  
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[OIG's online FOIA Request Form](#)

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OFFICE OF  
**INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**VIA EMAIL**

February 26, 2021

Re: OIG-2021-00074

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated December 29, 2020, which was received by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) on the same date. You requested the following information under the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552: a copy of the list of Interior Dept Office of Inspector General investigations closed during Calendar Year 2020.

We do not bill requesters for FOIA processing fees when their fees are less than \$50.00, because the cost of collection would be greater than the fee collected. See 43 C.F.R. § 2.49(a)(1). Therefore, there is no billable fee for the processing of this request.

We obtained the documents you seek and conducted a review of the material you requested. After reviewing this information, we have determined that we may release two pages of responsive documents, with FOIA redactions, pursuant to exemption 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(7)(A) and (b)(7)(C).

FOIA requires that agencies generally disclose records. Agencies may only withhold requested records only if one or more of nine exemptions apply.

Exemption 7 allows agencies to refuse to disclose records compiled for law enforcement purposes under any one of six circumstances (identified as Exemptions 7(A) through 7(F)). Law enforcement within the meaning of Exemption 7 includes enforcement pursuant to both civil and criminal statutes.

We obtained the list you seek and conducted a review of the material you requested. After reviewing this information, we inquired as the status of the activities with respect to this investigation and have carefully evaluated the response in light of FOIA's requirements. We have been informed that one entry on this list is completed, but not yet closed as proceedings are ongoing. Therefore, we have determined that the proceedings are not concluded in this matter, and that release of records related to these proceedings could reasonably be expected to reveal OIG's case prematurely, and otherwise interfere with OIG's ability to effectively enforce the law. As a result, we are withholding the one entry on the list you seek pursuant to exemption 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(A).

Furthermore, Exemption 7(C) permits an agency to withhold information contained in files compiled for law enforcement purposes if production “could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(C). Thus, the purpose of Exemption 7(C) is to protect the privacy of an individual if one exists. To determine this, we must evaluate not only the nature of the personal information found in the records, but also whether release of that information to the general public could affect that individual adversely. In this case, we find that release of personal information could reasonably be expected to have a negative impact on an individual’s privacy. However, even if a privacy interest exists, we must nevertheless disclose the requested information if the public interest outweighs the privacy interest in the information requested. In this instance, you have not established that release of the privacy information of witnesses, interviewee, middle and low-ranking federal employees and investigators, and other individuals name in the investigatory file, would shed light on government operations, and we have not found such a public interest in this case. For this reason, after reviewing the information in question, we have determined that disclosure would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy and we must withhold this information under FOIA Exemption 7(C).

We reasonably foresee that disclosure would harm an interest protected by one or more of the nine exemptions to the FOIA’s general rule of disclosure.

If you disagree with this response, you may appeal this response to the OIG’s FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer. If you choose to appeal, the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer must receive your FOIA appeal **no later than 90 workdays** from the date of this letter. Appeals arriving or delivered after 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, will be deemed received on the next workday.

**Your appeal must be made in writing.** You may submit your appeal and accompanying materials to the OIG FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer by mail, courier service, fax, or email. All communications concerning your appeal should be clearly marked with the words: “FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL.” You must include an explanation of why you believe the OIG’s response is in error. You must also include with your appeal copies of all correspondence between you and the OIG concerning your FOIA request, including your original FOIA request and the OIG’s response. Failure to include with your appeal all correspondence between you and the OIG will result in the OIG’s rejection of your appeal, unless the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer determines (in the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer’s sole discretion) that good cause exists to accept the defective appeal.

Please include your name and daytime telephone number (or the name and telephone number of an appropriate contact), email address and fax number (if available) in case the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer needs additional information or clarification of your appeal. The OIG FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office Contact Information is the following:

Office of the Inspector General  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW

MS-4428  
Washington, DC 20240  
Attn: FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office

Telephone: (202) 208-6742  
Fax: (202) 219-1944  
Email: [foia@doioig.gov](mailto:foia@doioig.gov)

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of FOIA. *See* [5 U.S.C. 552\(c\)](#). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of 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.

The 2007 FOIA amendments created the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road - OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740-6001

E-mail: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
Web: <https://ogis.archives.gov>  
Telephone: 202-741-5770  
Facsimile: 202-741-5769  
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

Please note that using OGIS services does not affect the timing of filing an appeal with the OIG FOIA & Privacy Act Appeals Officer.

However, should you need to contact me, my telephone number is (202) 208-6523 and the email is [foia@doioig.gov](mailto:foia@doioig.gov).

Sincerely,

*Sheri Meyers*  
Sheri Meyers  
Government Information Specialist



NUMBER	TITLE	CLOSED
OI-CO-16-0895-I	POTENTIAL CONTRACT STEERING/CONFLICT OF INTEREST AT NPS (b) (7)(C)	01/10/2020
OI-CO-19-0361-I	INAPPROPRIATE USE OF A GOVERNMENT COMPUTER, BLM (b) (7)(C)	01/27/2020
OI-VA-16-0716-I	ALLEGED FAILURE OF VENDOR TO ABIDE BY VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION AGREEMENT	01/30/2020
OI-CO-18-0569-I	FORMER USBR (b) (7)(C) MISUSED GOVT CREDIT CARD WHILE ON AWOL	02/10/2020
OI-OG-20-0004-I	ALLEGED ROYALTIES FRAUD, BLM	02/20/2020
OI-MT-20-0134-I	ALLEGED UNETHICAL PRACTICES, (b) (7)(C) BIA, MT	02/27/2020
OI-CA-18-1034-I	PERSONAL USE OF GOVERNMENT CREDIT CARD, USGS	03/11/2020
OI-VA-16-0193-I	POSSIBLE CREDIT CARD MISUSE BY (b) (7)(C)	05/11/2020
OI-SD-17-0074-I	HASKELL UNIVERSITY - NEPOTISM AND MISMANAGEMENT	05/11/2020
OI-SD-18-0152-I	(b) (7)(C) STOLE TRUST INCOME FROM (b) (7)(C)	05/11/2020
OI-AK-19-0363-I	ALLEGED MISUSE OF GOVERNMENT FACILITIES, FWS (b) (7)(C)	05/11/2020
OI-OG-19-0688-I	ALLEGED THEFT OF OIL, BLM, WY	06/08/2020
OI-OG-19-0772-I	SUSPECTED ROYALTY FRAUD, ONRR (b) (7)(C)	06/08/2020
OI-OG-19-0797-I	SUSPECTED IMPROPER REPORTING OF MINERAL RESOURCES, ONRR, CA	06/12/2020
OI-OG-20-0294-I	ALLEGED ROYALTIES FRAUD, ONRR, NM	06/12/2020
OI-OG-20-0127-I	ALLEGED COAL TRESPASS - BRONCO UTAH OPERATIONS	06/12/2020
OI-CA-15-0497-I	NONPAYMENT OF SUBCONTRACTORS BY DOI CONTRACTOR	06/12/2020
OI-PI-19-0723-I	ALLEGED ETHICS VIOLATION BY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INSULAR AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS	06/12/2020
OI-OG-18-0758-I	QUI TAM (UNDER SEAL): (b) (7)(C)	06/12/2020
OI-OG-19-0222-I	SUSPECTED ILLEGAL GAS FLARING IN NORTH DAKOTA	06/16/2020
OI-PI-19-0434-I	ALLEGED IMPROPER INFLUENCE BY THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR IN THE FWS' SCIENTIFIC PROCESS	06/16/2020
OI-PI-19-0336-I	ALLEGED MISUSE OF FUNDS AND ETHICS VIOLATIONS BY A U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (b) (7)(C)	06/16/2020
OI-PI-18-0375-I	ALLEGED UNPROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR BY FORMER (b) (7)(C)	06/16/2020
OI-PI-19-0851-I	ALLEGED ETHICS VIOLATION BY DOI (b) (7)(C)	06/16/2020
OI-PI-18-1136-I	BLM (b) (7)(C) VIOLATED ETHICS REGULATIONS FOR OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT	06/16/2020
OI-OG-17-0097-I	(b) (7)(C) BOP TEST FALSIFICATION	06/16/2020
OI-PI-18-0700-I	BLM (b) (7)(C) ALLEGEDLY ABUSED TRAVEL AND GOVERNMENT VEHICLE	06/16/2020
OI-PI-19-0396-I	ALLEGED CONFLICT OF INTEREST BY SENIOR (b) (7)(C)	06/18/2020
OI-PI-19-0845-I	(b) (7)(A)	06/18/2020
OI-VA-19-0386-I	POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST BY OSMRE FORESTER	06/23/2020
OI-MT-18-0337-I	ALLEGED FRAUD WITH BIA (b) (7)(C) THAT FUNDS (b) (7)(C) .	07/14/2020
OI-VA-19-0628-I	ALLEGED PROCUREMENT MANIPULATION BY USBR CONTRACT (b) (7)(C)	07/31/2020
OI-CO-19-0119-I	MISUSE OF A GOVERNMENT-ISSUED PURCHASE CARD FOR PERSONAL GAIN, FWS, (b) (7)(C)	07/31/2020
OI-OG-19-0783-I	SUSPECTED ROYALTIES FRAUD, ONRR, (b) (7)(C)	07/31/2020

OI-OG-18-0771-I	(b) (7)(C) UNPAID ROYALTIES	08/11/2020
OI-VA-17-0013-I	ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF PROHIBITED PERSONNEL PRACTICES AND FAVORITISM BY BSEE MANAGEMENT	08/20/2020
OI-VA-19-0651-I	ALLEGED CONTRACT FRAUD, USGS (b) (7)(C)	08/20/2020
OI-VA-19-0060-I	ALLEGED MISUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT CHARGE CARD, BLM WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM	08/20/2020
OI-VA-19-0123-I	ALLEGED IMPROPER SPLIT PURCHASE AND EMAIL ACCESS BY NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION OFFICIAL	09/03/2020
OI-PI-18-0007-I	ALLEGED MISUSE OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT BY BIA (b) (7)(C) EMPLOYEES	09/03/2020
OI-CA-16-0176-I	(b) (7)(C) FIRES	09/09/2020
OI-MT-18-1207-I	ALLEGATION OF INAPPROPRIATE REMOVAL OF MINERALS, BLM, MT	09/09/2020
OI-MT-18-1192-I	ALLEGED BRIBERY, (b) (7)(C) BLM (b) (7)(C)	09/23/2020
OI-CO-18-0526-I	ALLEGED CONTRACT FRAUD, IBC AND (b) (7)(C)	09/23/2020
OI-OG-17-1004-I	MINERAL TRESPASS - CO - SRC ENERGY	09/24/2020
OI-CO-19-0471-I	ALLEGED CONTRACT FRAUD, NPS, UT	10/05/2020
OI-NM-09-0201-I	CORRUPTION CONCERNING THE CONSTRUCTION OF BIA BUILDINGS IN ALBUQUERQUE, NM	10/05/2020
OI-SD-18-0920-I	FRAUDULENT RECEIPT OF GENERAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS, BIA, SD	10/05/2020
OI-GA-19-0309-I	ALLEGED MISUSE OF GOVERNMENT HOUSING AT DING DARLING NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE	10/08/2020
OI-GA-19-0460-I	POTENTIAL EMBEZZLEMENT AT (b) (7)(C) SCHOOL	10/08/2020
OI-GA-19-0079-I	ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENT BY MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK EMPLOYEE	10/08/2020
OI-GA-19-0206-I	ALLEGED FRAUD AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AT FWS (b) (7)(C) OFFICE	10/08/2020
OI-GA-17-0413-I	QUESTIONABLE ART PURCHASES BY NPS (b) (7)(C) AT SOCA	10/08/2020
OI-GA-18-0898-I	ALLEGED SMUGGLING OF CONTRABAND, NPS, (b) (7)(C)	10/08/2020
OI-CO-18-0949-I	ALLEGED THEFT, WASTE AND MISUSE OF EQUIPMENT, NPS (b) (7)(C)	10/22/2020
OI-OG-13-0074-I	LESSEE AND CONTRACTOR NEGLIGENCE CAUSED EXPLOSION, FATALITIES, AND POLLUTION IN THE GULF OF MEXICO	10/26/2020
OI-GA-16-0494-I	FWS EMPLOYEE EXCEEDS AUTHORIZED ACCESS OF A FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DATABASE	10/28/2020
OI-VA-14-0746-I	(b) (7)(C)	11/03/2020
OI-PI-18-0937-I	DOI (b) (7)(C) USE OF PRIVATE EMAIL ACCOUNT, DC	11/03/2020
OI-CO-19-0716-I	ILLEGAL DIVERSION OF WATER, USBR (b) (7)(C)	11/12/2020
OI-VA-19-0473-I	ALLEGED PIV SECURITY, PURCHASING, AND CONTRACTING IMPROPRIETIES BY NPS (b) (7)(C)	11/12/2020
OI-OG-15-0608-I	PRIME 8 OFFSHORE INSPECTION PROGRAM	11/25/2020
OI-VA-18-0436-I	ALLEGED FRAUD, WASTE, AND MISMANAGEMENT, FWS (b) (7)(C)	11/25/2020
OI-OG-19-0354-I	POSSIBLE FRAUD ASSOCIATED WITH DECOMMISSIONING OPERATIONS - (b) (7)(C)	11/30/2020
OI-MT-19-0762-I	ALLEGED CHILD PORNOGRAPHY ON GOVERNMENT COMPUTER, BLM, (b) (7)(C)	12/02/2020
OI-CA-18-0044-I	ALLEGED SEXUAL ASSAULT, (b) (7)(C)	12/02/2020
OI-VA-20-0344-I	STOLEN HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS FROM THE MAIN INTERIOR BUILDING LIBRARY, DC	07/31/2020