



# Office of Inspector General

## United States Department of State

November 13, 2023

**SENT VIA EMAIL TO:** [carrbp@gmail.com](mailto:carrbp@gmail.com)

Brian Carr  
1201 Brody Dr.  
Irving, TX 75061

Subject: Department of State Office of Inspector General Freedom of Information Act Request  
No. 2023-P-022 Final Response

Dear Mr. Carr:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of State (DOS) Office of Inspector General (OIG), dated June 30, 2023, and received on July 3, 2023. Your request sought records pertaining to complaint H20231753. Specifically, your request sought:

- 1) A copy of complaint number H20231753,
- 2) an April 25, 2023 complaint with no subject,
- 3) all records related to yourself, and
- 4) your passport applications.

In response to your request, we referred item four (4) to DOS - Information Program Services, as detailed in our acknowledgment letter to you dated July 12, 2023. For the remaining three (3) items, we conducted a search within the DOS-OIG Office of Investigations. That search identified eight (8) pages of records responsive to your request. These pages were reviewed by DOS-OIG. We reviewed the responsive records under the FOIA to determine whether they may be disclosed to you. Based on that review, this office is providing the following:

5 page(s) are released in full; and  
3 page(s) are released in part.

OIG redacted from the enclosed documents, to protect interagency communications and also third party information to protect the identities and personal identifiable information of individuals. Absent a Privacy Act waiver, the release of such information concerning the third parties named in these records would result in an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy in violation of the FOIA. The responsive records are protected from disclosure pursuant to Exemptions (b)(5), (b)(6) and (b)(7)(C) of the FOIA further discussed below.

### **Exemption 5, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5)**

Exemption (b)(5) of the FOIA protects “inter-agency or intra-agency communications, memorandums or letters that would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5). DOS-OIG is invoking the deliberative process of Exemption (b)(5) to protect information that falls within that privilege’s domain.

### **Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)**

Exemption (b)(6) allows withholding of “personnel and medical files and *similar files* the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). DOS-OIG is invoking Exemption (b)(6) to protect an address, phone number and, the names and email addresses of lower level investigative staff, and any additional information that could reasonably be expected to identify such individuals.

### **Exemption 7(C), 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(C)**

Exemption (b)(7)(C) protects from public disclosure “records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes . . . [if disclosure] could reasonably be expected to cause an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(C). DOS-OIG is invoking Exemption (b)(7)(C) to protect the same withheld information detailed above in the explanation of exemption (b)(6).

### **Fees**

Provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover part of the cost of complying with your request. In this instance, because the cost is below the \$10 minimum, there is no charge.

### **Appeals**

You have the right to appeal this response. Your appeal must be received within 90 calendar days of the date of this letter. Please address any appeal to:

Appeals Officer  
Office of Information Programs and Services (A/GIS/IPS)  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520  
Facsimile: 202-485-1718  
Email: [FOIAAppeals@state.gov](mailto:FOIAAppeals@state.gov)

Both the envelope and letter of appeal should be clearly marked, “Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Appeal.” Your appeal letter should also clearly identify the DOS-OIG’s response.

Additional information on submitting an appeal is set forth in the DOS regulations at 22 C.F.R. § 171.13.

### **Assistance and Dispute Resolution Services**

For further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request you may contact DOS-OIG's FOIA Public Liaison at:

FOIA Officer  
Office of General Counsel  
Office of Inspector General  
U.S. Department of State  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 1400  
Arlington, VA 22209  
[foia@stateoig.gov](mailto:foia@stateoig.gov)

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is 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](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,



FOIA Specialist

Enclosure: Eight (8) pages of responsive material