



May 20, 2013

FOIA/PA Mail Referral Unit
Department of Justice
Room 115
LOC Building
Washington, DC 20530-0001
(301) 583-7354
(301) 341-0772 fax

Dear Sir or Madame:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, for access to and copies of the following records:

All records, communication and correspondence (memos, emails, directives, letters or any similar document) related to subpoenas issued by the U.S. Department of Justice concerning news organizations and their members, from 2001 to the present. These should include all related documents, including but not limited to documents circulated within the department, to and from news organizations, to and from telephone companies and other telecommunications service providers, and to and from all Congressional offices.

If you regard any of these records as exempt from disclosure under the Act, I hereby request that you exercise your discretion to disclose them, particularly Attorney General Eric Holder's admonition to adopt a "presumption of openness" with all FOIA requests. The DOJ news release on March 19, 2009, announcing the policy said, "As to the presumption of disclosure, the Attorney General directs agencies not to withhold records simply because they can technically do so." In the memo, the Attorney General encourages agencies to make discretionary disclosures of records and to release records in part whenever they cannot be released in full.

If you deny this request in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the Act, and that you provide all non-exempt portions that are reasonably segregable.

I am requesting this information on behalf of the Board of Directors of Investigative Reporters and Editors, Inc, an education and training membership organization based in Columbia, Mo., which publishes the IRE Journal. This information will be used to shed light on the operations of government and will be used in news articles disseminated to the public. As such, we ask that you waive all fees in the public interest.

I further request that you disclose the listed documents, as they become available to you, without waiting until all the documents have been assembled.

IRE is requesting expedited handling of this FOIA and that it be processed in a timely manner and as quickly as possible, as the information provided is urgently needed by IRE to in order to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity. The documents will shed light on practices currently under scrutiny, and which will likely become subject of congressional hearings in the near future.

Sincerely,

Mark Horvit, Executive Director

Investigative Reporters and Editors
141 Neff Annex
Missouri School of Journalism
Columbia, MO 65211