

EXHIBIT C



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Sixth Floor
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

November 23, 2020

Gene Schaerr
Schaerr-Jaffe LLP
1717 K Street, NW
Suite 900
Washington, DC 20006
gschaerr@schaerr-jaffe.com

Re: FOIA-2021-00190

Dear Gene Schaerr:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated October 23, 2020, and received in this Office on October 28, 2020, in which you requested records concerning three surveillance laws, including the Department of Justice response to a July 21, 2020 letter from Senators Patrick Leahy and Mike Lee and a January 22, 2010 letter from Senators Richard Durbin, Russell Feingold, and Ron Wyden.¹

The records you seek require a search in and/or consultation with another Office, and so your request falls within “unusual circumstances.” See 5 U.S.C. 552 § (a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii) (2018). Because of these unusual circumstances, we need to extend the time limit to respond to your request beyond the ten additional days provided by the statute. For your information, we use multiple tracks to process requests, but within those tracks we work in an agile manner, and the time needed to complete our work on your request will necessarily depend on a variety of factors, including the complexity of our records search, the volume and complexity of any material located, and the order of receipt of your request. At this time we have assigned your request to the complex track. In an effort to speed up our process, you may wish to narrow the scope of your request to limit the number of potentially responsive records so that it can be placed in a different processing track. You can also agree to an alternative time frame for processing, should records be located, or you may wish to await the completion of our records search to discuss either of these options. Any decision with regard to the application of fees will be made only after we determine whether fees will be implicated for this request.

We regret the necessity of this delay, but we assure you that your request will be processed as soon as possible. If you have any questions or wish to discuss reformulation or an alternative time frame for the processing of your request, you may contact this Office by telephone at the above number or you may write to the Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Sixth Floor, 441 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001.

¹ You directed your request to the FOIA/PA Mail Referral Unit (MRU), Justice Management Division, who forwarded it to this Office. The MRU tracking number associated with this request is 39816238472.

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Lastly, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison, Valeree Villanueva, at the telephone number listed above to discuss any aspect of your request.

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, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448.

Sincerely,
Initial Request Staff
Office of Information Policy
U.S. Department of Justice