

EXHIBIT 17

From: [Hannah Wigger](#)
To: [Parsons, Bobbie \(Federal\)](#)
Subject: RE: Request for Update on Response to FOIA Request DOC-OS-2018-000373
Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 5:10:11 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Ms. Parsons,

I hope you are doing well. I am following up on this request on behalf of Alicia Cate and Oceana. Do you have an update on our second interim/final response? As you know, this request has been pending for several years, and any further information you can give us would be appreciated.

Thanks,

Hannah Wigger | Associate
+1 202-747-2673 | direct
HWigger@sheppardmullin.com | [Bio](#)

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From: Cate, Alicia <acate@oceana.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 11:22 AM
To: Parsons, Bobbie (Federal) <bParsons@doc.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for Update on Response to FOIA Request DOC-OS-2018-000373

Dear Bobbie Parsons,

Thank you for your quick response and for following up on Oceana's FOIA Request DOC-OS-2018-000373 with the relevant FOIA office units.

We look forward to receiving updates on any second interim and/or final responses as soon as the information becomes available.

Thank you again for your time and assistance with this long-standing FOIA request.

May you and yours stay healthy and well.

All the best,
Alicia

Alicia Cate | Senior Counsel



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From: Parsons, Bobbie (Federal) <bParsons@doc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 12:12 PM
To: Cate, Alicia <acate@oceana.org>
Subject: RE: Request for Update on Response to FOIA Request DOC-OS-2018-000373

Hi Ms. Cate,

Thank you for your kind words about Mr. Davis. His loss is a shock to our office.

I just checked the file for you FOIA request. I seen that an interim was sent in April 2018. Mr. Davis did sent out status emails for the remaining office units that searches are pending.

Those office happen to be under my FOIA office units (I am the IOS FOIA Officer). I checked in my files for any responses, the office units have not responded to their search tasks. I have sent another status email to each of those office units.

Unfortunately, the IOS office units have a tremendous back log in responding to the FOIA tasks. In addition, we have experienced a tremendous turnover of management analyst in our office as well as the Deputy Chief FOIA Officer positions.

As soon as we receive the responses we will send to you a second

interim and/or a final response. We ask for your continued patience and cooperation as we render this delayed response to your FOIA request.

Thanks,
Bobbie

Bobbie Parsons
Acting Deputy Chief FOIA Officer and
Acting Deputy Program Director for FOIA/Privacy Act Operations
FOIA Officer, Immediate Office of the Secretary
Office of Privacy and Open Government
PH: x23257
Email: BParsons@doc.gov



From: Cate, Alicia <acate@oceana.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 11:45 AM
To: Parsons, Bobbie (Federal) <bParsons@doc.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for Update on Response to FOIA Request DOC-OS-2018-000373
Importance: High

Dear Bobbie Parsons,

I received your email noting Mr. Davis' passing, and I have been in a state of shock as I am sure you have been as well. I would like to express my sincere condolences to you and your colleagues as well as to his family.

I fully understand how incredibly overwhelmed you must be.

As Oceana's FOIA request has been pending for over two years, would it be possible to get an update on the status of the response? In the event it is helpful, I am attaching the last written update I had from Mr. Davis about this FOIA request.

Thank you for your time and attention to this long-standing FOIA request.

All the best,
Alicia

Alicia Cate | Senior Counsel



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From: Parsons, Bobbie (Federal) <bParsons@doc.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 10:21 AM
To: Cate, Alicia <acate@oceana.org>
Subject: RE: Request for Update on Response to FOIA Request DOC-OS-2018-000373

Hi Ms. Cate,

Unbelievably, Mr. Davis passed away as of recent. We have looked in the file and it appears that an interim was sent. The office units that remain open for action is the Immediate Office of the Secretary. Unfortunately, the Immediate Office of the Secretary units have a backlog in responding to FOIA tasks and our Department has a tremendous backlog. We are working as diligently and as quickly as we can to render the backlog.

In addition to processing the Immediate Office of the Secretary FOIA requests, I am the Acting Deputy Chief FOIA Officer to the Department and with Mr. Davis passing, I am working through the FOIA requests assigned to Mr. Davis as quickly and diligently and I can.

Unfortunately, we have had several changes in staff over the last couple of years, and at times, it was only Mr. Davis and myself working to process approximately 800 requests, with a great many of that number being backlogged.

I will send an email to the Immediate Office of the Secretary units requesting a status.

If you have any further questions or concerns, you may contact me at 202-482-3257 or email me at BParsons@doc.gov.

Thanks,
Bobbie

Bobbie Parsons
Acting Deputy Chief FOIA Officer and
Acting Deputy Program Director for FOIA/Privacy Act Operations
FOIA Officer, Immediate Office of the Secretary
Office of Privacy and Open Government
PH: x23257
Email: BParsons@doc.gov



From: Cate, Alicia <acate@oceana.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 2:59 PM
To: Davis, James (Federal) <JDavis2@doc.gov>
Cc: Parsons, Bobbie (Federal) <bParsons@doc.gov>
Subject: Request for Update on Response to FOIA Request DOC-OS-2018-000373
Importance: High

Dear Mr. Davis,

I hope you and yours are faring well during this global pandemic.

As you are aware, Oceana originally sent FOIA request DOC-OS-2018-00373 over two years ago in December 2017. The agency is well-past its statutorily mandated timeframe for a response.

Please respond with an update on your/the agency's latest efforts to respond to this FOIA request.

Thank you!

All the best,
Alicia

Alicia Cate | Senior Counsel



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From: Cate, Alicia
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2020 11:13 PM
To: Davis, James (Federal) <JDavis2@doc.gov>
Cc: Parsons, Bobbie (Federal) <bParsons@doc.gov>
Subject: FW: FOIA DOC-OS-2018-000373

Dear Mr. Davis,

I hope you had enjoyable holidays.

It has now been over six weeks since you last communicated to me that you would be following up with replies from several offices that owe you a search response to Oceana’s FOIA request.

On November 26, 2019, you wrote: “I ask that with the holiday you give me until next Tuesday to get back to you with their replies.”

Oceana originally sent this request two years ago in December 2017. The agency is well-past its statutorily mandated timeframe for a response.

Please provide an update as soon as possible.

Thank you!

All the best,
Alicia

Alicia Cate | Senior Counsel



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From: Cate, Alicia
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2019 6:58 AM
To: Davis, James (Federal) <JDavis2@doc.gov>
Cc: Parsons, Bobbie (Federal) <bParsons@doc.gov>
Subject: RE: FOIA DOC-OS-2018-000373

Dear Mr. Davis,

I hope you are well.

It has now been over three weeks since you last communicated to me that you would be following up with replies from several offices that owe you a search response to Oceana’s FOIA request.

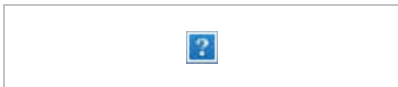
Oceana originally sent this request two years ago in December 2017. The agency is well-past its statutorily mandated timeframe for a response.

Please provide an update as soon as possible prior to the year-end holidays.

Thank you!

All the best,
Alicia

Alicia Cate | Senior Counsel



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From: Davis, James (Federal) <JDavis2@doc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 5:52 PM
To: Cate, Alicia <acate@oceana.org>
Cc: Parsons, Bobbie (Federal) <bParsons@doc.gov>
Subject: RE: FOIA DOC-OS-2018-000373

You too, thank you.

Cc: Parsons, Bobbie (Federal) <bParsons@doc.gov>

Subject: FOIA DOC-OS-2018-000373

Hi Alicia,

I am James Davis and I recently (last week) took over the assignment of OS FOIAs which includes yours. I apologize for the delay, due to staffing and backlog issues we haven't been as responsive as we should have been with your FOIA and others.

My notes show that several offices owe us their search response to the this request. I will be reaching out to them to seek an updated on their search efforts.

I will reach out to the offices which still owe us an update. I ask that with the holiday you give me until next Tuesday to get back to you with their replies. Below is my contact information. Thank you again for your patience and cooperation.

James H. Davis

Department of Commerce

OPOG

(202) 482-1033

jdavis2@doc.gov



From: Cate, Alicia <acate@oceana.org>

Sent: Monday, November 25, 2019 7:57 PM

To: Parsons, Bobbie (Federal) <bParsons@doc.gov>

Subject: RE: FOIA DOC-OS-2018-000373

Dear Ms. Parsons:

Thank you for your response and follow-up on my FOIA request.

Oceana's request was submitted nearly two years ago on December 1, 2017. We accommodated the agency and agreed to accept rolling productions, of which only one partial production was ever made and that was over a year and a half ago. We have not had anyone at the FOIA liaison office or the agency respond with the next production date, despite repeated follow-ups. Our last resort—which we are prepared to do—is litigating against the agency under FOIA, as the agency is well-past its statutorily mandated timeframe for a response. We would prefer to work with the agency and soon receive responsive documents to our request.

We look forward to receiving any information you discover on the status of our request and a forthcoming production.

Sincerely,
Alicia Cate

Alicia Cate | Senior Counsel



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From: Parsons, Bobbie (Federal) <bParsons@doc.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 4:18 PM

To: Cate, Alicia <acate@oceana.org>

Subject: RE: FOIA DOC-OS-2018-000373

Hi Ms. Cate,

Ms. Harriette Boyd no longer works at the Department. I have checked our files and it appears that the office units tasked within the immediate office of the Secretary have not responded. I will send email to see when I can expect to receive the units response to the searches. In addition, there are a couple of office units from NOAA, as well. I will also send them an email to check on their responses to the search.

If you have any questions, my email and phone number are below.

Thanks,
Bobbie

Bobbie Parsons

Acting Deputy Chief FOIA Officer and
Acting Deputy Program Director for FOIA/Privacy Act Operations
FOIA Officer, Immediate Office of the Secretary
Office of Privacy and Open Government
PH: x23257
Email: BParsons@doc.gov



From: Cate, Alicia <acate@oceana.org>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2019 6:19 PM
To: Boyd, Harriette (Federal) <hBoyd1@doc.gov>
Cc: Parsons, Bobbie (Federal) <bParsons@doc.gov>
Subject: RE: FOIA DOC-OS-2018-000373

Dear Harriette Boyd,

I look forward to hearing from you with an update regarding FOIA Request DOC-OS-2018-000373.

Thank you,
Alicia

Alicia Cate | Senior Counsel



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From: Parsons, Bobbie (Federal) <bParsons@doc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 5:24 PM
To: Boyd, Harriette (Federal) <hBoyd1@doc.gov>
Cc: Cate, Alicia <acate@oceana.org>
Subject: FOIA DOC-OS-2018-000373
Importance: High

Hi Harriette,

This FOIA request, per FOIAonline, is assigned to you. Please email or call Ms. Cate with a status of the processing of her FOIA request.

Her number is 202-467-1977. Her email is acate@aceana.org.

Thanks,

Bobbie

Bobbie Parsons

Acting Deputy Chief FOIA Officer and

Acting Deputy Program Director for FOIA/Privacy Act Operations

FOIA Officer, Immediate Office of the Secretary

Office of Privacy and Open Government

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