

EXHIBIT Q



December 15, 2020

Mark Lilly
Information and Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Re: CIA Case F-2020-02333

Dear Mr. Lilly:

This letter, filed on behalf of the Project for Privacy and Surveillance Accountability, Inc. (“PPSA”), is in response to your letter dated November 17, 2020 (the “Acknowledgement Letter”), conveying the CIA’s modification of PPSA’s FOIA request. The Acknowledgement Letter represented that the CIA’s record systems “are not configured in a way that would allow us to perform a search reasonably calculated to lead to responsive records without an unreasonable effort”; however, it proposed modifying PPSA’s original request to instead search for “records on or about EO 13526, sections 1.7 and or 1.8.”¹ PPSA agrees to that modification and looks forward to receiving all records responsive to that modified request.

Thank you for your speedy attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Gene C. Schaerr
PPSA, Inc.
General Counsel

¹ Nov. 17, 2020 Letter from Mark Lilly to Gene Schaerr (Attachment A).

Attachment A

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

17 November 2020

Gene C. Schaerr
1101 Connecticut Avenue NW
Suite 450
Washington, DC 20036

Reference: F-2020-02333

Dear Requester:

During a recent shelf review, we discovered that we had not responded to your 25 September 2020 Freedom of Information Act request, submitted on behalf of the Project for Privacy and Surveillance Accountability, and received in the Office of the Information and Privacy Coordinator on 30 September 2020. We apologize for our administrative oversight. PPSA seeks records on:

1. All agency record mentioning either EO 13526 §1.7 or any subsection thereof; and
2. All agency records mentioning either EO 13526 § 1.8 or any subsections thereof.

[You stated] the date range for responsive materials encompasses those either created, altered, sent or received between December 29, 2009 and September 25, 2020.

This letter serves to acknowledge that CIA has received your request, and to further let you know that CIA has assigned your request the reference number provided above. In future correspondence, please use this number to facilitate this office's location of your case information.

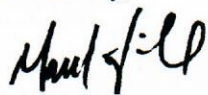
We completed a thorough review of your request and determined that our record systems are not configured in a way that would allow us to perform a search reasonably calculated to lead to responsive records without an unreasonable effort. The FOIA does not require federal agencies to perform research, create records or conduct unreasonable searches through a body of material to see if any of it is related to a particular request.

However, we can search for **records on or about EO 13526, sections 1.7 and or 1.8**. We will hold your request for 45 business days from the date of this letter pending your response to our recommendation. If we do not hear from you within the time frame, we will assume that you agreed to our modification and will proceed to conducting the search on that basis. Unless you object, we will search for CIA-originated records up to and including the date the Agency begins its search.

If you have any questions about this response, you may contact this office via telephone at (703) 613-1287. To check the status of your request, please visit:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/request/status> and input the reference number provided above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Lilly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a stylized "L".

Mark Lilly
Information and Privacy Coordinator