

Exhibit 4

From: Hibbard, Douglas (OIP) <Douglas.Hibbard@usdoj.gov>

Date: Tue, May 10, 2022 at 10:05 AM

Subject: Pending Freedom of Information Act Request, FOIA-2022-00878

To: petesorenson@gmail.com <petesorenson@gmail.com>

Peter Sorenson,

This responds to your letter of May 3, 2022, inquiring into the status of your pending Freedom of Information Act request and requesting an estimated date of completion.

At this time, our records search is ongoing, covering various databases as your client's request is seeking records since November 1, 2015 (I note that some subparts of your client's request have no set timeframe). We advised in our letter of March 18, 2022, your client's request has been placed in the complex track. Based on our most-recent FOIA Annual Report data, the average processing time for a request in the complex track is 478.52 days (see: <https://www.justice.gov/oip/page/file/1478951/download>). This would currently place our estimated date of completion as February 13, 2024.

In an effort to facilitate our ability to respond to your client's request, you may want to narrow the parameters of the records search. Generally speaking, the number of Department officials subject to the records search and the broadness of the timeframe of the search are two significant factors in how long the records search takes to be completed. Your client's request is seeking records since 2015 although your request letter does acknowledge that the China Initiative began in November 2018. To the extent the timeframe of your client's request can be limited in any way, it would help facilitate our records search.

Furthermore, part (1) of your client's request is seeking records concerning complaints, indictments, or charging documents filed with various word combinations. To the extent such records exist, they would most likely be maintained by the Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA). I note that your client's request has already been forwarded to EOUSA (as well as to the Federal Bureau of Investigation). My office processes FOIA requests on behalf of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). To the extent that OAG maintains records responsive to part (1) of your client's request, they likely received those records from EOUSA. As such, and given the fact that EOUSA is also processing your client's request, to the extent we can exclude part (1) of your client's request from our records search, it would also facilitate our ability to respond in a more timely manner. To be clear, I am not suggesting that we exclude the entirety of part (1) from your client's request, just that we limit part (1) to records maintained by EOUSA, as the Department component most likely to maintain such records. This would limit your client's request with regards to this Office to the records sought in parts (2) through (9).

Please let me know if you have any questions on this matter or wish to discuss these options further.

Doug Hibbard

Chief, Initial Request Staff

Office of Information Policy