

# **Exhibit 2**



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Civil Division

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*Washington, DC 20530*

Via Email

August 9, 2022

Mr. Chris Stanley  
Functional Government Initiative  
6218 Georgia Avenue, NW  
Suite 1-1235  
Washington, DC 20011-5125  
chris@functionalgovernment.org

Request No.: 145-FOI-18772  
SBL

Dear Mr. Stanley:

This letter acknowledges that the Civil Division received your July 8, 2022, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request in which you requested records of billing by or payments to the law firm Steptoe & Johnson, LLP, for attorneys' fees or other legal costs relating to representation of Ms. Lois Lerner and Ms. Holly Paz, former officials in the IRS Exempt Organizations Office. Your request was originally directed to the Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA). EOUSA then routed your request to the Civil Division. This Office received your request on July 27, 2022.

The records you seek require a search in another Office in the Division; therefore, your request presents "unusual circumstances" under the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(iii)(I). Because of these unusual circumstances, we are extending the time limit to respond to your request beyond the ten additional days provided by the statute. We have not completed a search to determine whether there are records within the scope of your request. The time needed to process your request will depend on the complexity of our records search and on the volume and complexity of any records located. For your information, this Office assigns incoming requests to one of three tracks: simple, complex, or expedited. This Office usually responds to simple requests in approximately one month whereas complex requests necessarily take longer. At this time, I have assigned your request to the complex track. You may wish to narrow the scope of your request to limit the number of potentially responsive records or 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.

Provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover part of the cost of complying with your request. We have determined that you are making this request as a "representative of the news media" as described in Department of Justice regulation 28 C.F.R. § 16.10(b)(6). As such, we are required to assess fees for any applicable duplication or direct costs for processing your request. *See id.* § 16.10(c). You may review the Department of Justice regulations which establish the

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fees charged for processing FOIA requests at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2017-title28-vol1/pdf/CFR-2017-title28-vol1-sec16-10.pdf>.

If you disagree with this determination, you are welcome to provide any additional information that would demonstrate that you should not be considered a representative of the news media.

We have not yet made a decision on your request for a fee waiver. We will do so after we determine whether the processing of your request will result in any assessable fees. As a “representative of the news media,” you will not be charged search fees.

I regret the necessity of this delay, but I assure you that this Office will process your request 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 me by telephone at 202-514-2319 or you may write to me at the FOIA, Records, and E-Discovery Office, Civil Division, Department of Justice, Room 8314, 1100 L Street NW, Washington, DC 20530. 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, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Logan', written in a cursive style.

Stephanie Logan  
Supervisory Government Information Specialist  
FOIA and Privacy Office