



U.S. RIGHT TO KNOW

Pursuing truth and transparency for public health

May 14, 2023

U. S. Department of State
Office of Information Programs and Services
2201 C Street N.W., Suite B266
Washington, D.C. 20520-0000

Via email: FOIAStatus@state.gov

Re: Request for acknowledgement, determination and ECD for FOIA request

Dear FOIA Officer:

This is a determination request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, et seq., to the U.S. Department of State (State Department), regarding U.S. Right to Know's FOIA request, which we filed on March 15, 2023.

Our FOIA request sought information about the State Department's activities in relation to information about the potential origins of COVID-19. In particular, we requested emails and a memorandum of conversation involving Stephen Biegun, former Deputy Secretary of State.

We request that the State Department acknowledge the submission of our request, and provide a FOIA tracking number.

We formally demand that the State Department provide, within 10 business days, an official determination on this request or, at the very least, a certain date by which we should expect a determination. We also request that you address our request for a fee waiver in a timely manner. Finally, please provide an estimated completion date that complies with the FOIA's requirement to "promptly" make records available upon request.

Please do tell us if there is anything we can do to assist in processing our request. Thank you for your help in filling our FOIA requests.

Sincerely,

Hana Mensendiek
Investigator

Gary Ruskin
Executive Director