

**Exhibit H – DHS-OIG’s denial of Plaintiff’s FOIA request.**



**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

Department of Homeland Security

Washington, DC 20528 / [www.oig.dhs.gov](http://www.oig.dhs.gov)

February 23, 2016

Mr. Patrick Taurel  
Benach Ragland LLP  
1333 H Street, NW  
Suite 900 West  
Washington, DC 20005

Subject: Freedom of Information Act Request No. 2016-028  
Final Response

Dear Mr. Taurel:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG), dated November 5, 2015, and seeking records pertaining to Robert T. Schofield. DHS-OIG received your request on November 13, 2015.

Lacking the named individual(s) consent, an official acknowledgment of an investigation of him, or an overriding public interest, acknowledging the existence of such records could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of his personal privacy. Accordingly, we have decided to refuse to confirm or deny the existence of responsive records pursuant to Exemption 7(C) of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(7)(C). This response should not be taken as an indication that such records do or do not exist. Rather, it is our standard response to requesters seeking information or records pertaining to third parties.

This is the final action this office will take concerning this matter. You have the right to appeal this response.<sup>1</sup> Your appeal must be in writing and received within 60 days of the date of this response. Please address any appeal to:

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<sup>1</sup>For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV 2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

FOIA/PA Appeals Unit  
DHS-OIG Office of Counsel  
STOP 0305  
245 Murray Lane, SW  
Washington, DC 20528-0305

Both the envelope and letter of appeal must be clearly marked, "Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Appeal." Your appeal letter must also clearly identify DHS-OIG's response. Additional information on submitting an appeal is set forth in the DHS regulations at 6 C.F.R. § 5.9. If you have any questions about this response please contact Dwight D. Adams, Jr., FOIA/PA Disclosure Specialist, at 202-254-4001.

Sincerely,

Dwight D. Adams, Jr.  
FOIA/PA Disclosure Specialist