



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Office of Information Policy  
Suite 11050  
1425 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

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Telephone: (202) 514-3642

**April 26, 2017**

Mr. Michael Best  
MuckRock  
DEPT MR 30386  
411-A Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516  
[30386-91985680@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:30386-91985680@requests.muckrock.com)

Re: Appeal No. DOJ-AP-2017-001967  
Request No. 1364000  
MWH:DRC

**VIA: Email**

Dear Mr. Best:

You appealed from the action of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on your Freedom of Information Act request for access to all records concerning Scientology or the Church of Scientology.

After carefully considering your appeal, I am affirming the FBI's action on your request. Please be advised that your request for records related would require the FBI to conduct an unreasonably burdensome search. In order to fulfill your request, the FBI would have to spend approximately 500 hours searching for responsive records. Courts have consistently held that the FOIA does not require agencies to conduct "unreasonably burdensome" searches for records. See, e.g., Nation Magazine v. U.S. Customs Serv., 71 F.3d 885, 892 (D.C. Cir. 1995). If you wish to modify the scope of your request, please contact the FBI directly.

Please be advised that this Office's decision was made only after a full review of this matter. Your appeal was assigned to an attorney with this Office who thoroughly reviewed and analyzed your appeal, your underlying request, and the action of the FBI in response to your request. If you have any questions regarding the action this Office has taken on your appeal, you may contact this Office's FOIA Public Liaison for your appeal. Specifically, you may speak with the undersigned agency official by calling (202) 514-3642.

If you are dissatisfied with my action on your appeal, the FOIA permits you to file a lawsuit in federal district court in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B).

For your information, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road,

- 2 -

College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,

4/26/2017

X



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Matthew Hurd, Associate Chief, for  
Sean O'Neill, Chief, Administrative Appeals Staff  
Signed by: MATTHEW HURD