

EXHIBIT R



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

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

March 24, 2017

Mr. Ian Bassin
The Protect Democracy Project
P.O. Box 170521
Brooklyn, NY 11217
FOIA.protectdemocracy@gmail.com

Re: DOJ-2017-002571 (AG)
DOJ-2017-003084 (DAG)
DOJ-2017-003085 (ASG)
DRH:ERH

Dear Mr. Bassin:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated February 15, 2017, and received in this Office on February 27, 2017, in which you requested communication between the Offices of the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, or Associate Attorney General and either President-Elect Trump's transition team or President Trump's Administration from November 9, 2016, through February 15, 2017, pertaining to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. This response is made on behalf of the Offices of the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, and Associate Attorney General.

Pursuant to your March 1, 2017 conversation with Douglas Hibbard of this Office, you indicated that you are not interested in receiving news articles, to the extent that they do not include any Department commentary on them. Your request will be processed accordingly.

The records you seek require searches in other Offices, and so your request falls within "unusual circumstances." See 5 U.S.C. 552 § (a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii). Because of these unusual circumstances, we need to extend the time limit to respond to your request beyond the ten additional days provided by the statute. For your information, we use multiple tracks to process requests, but within those tracks we work in an agile manner, and the time needed to complete our work on your request will necessarily depend on a variety of factors, including the complexity of our records search, the volume and complexity of any material located, and the order of receipt of your request. At this time we have assigned your request to the complex track. In an effort to speed up our process, you may wish to narrow the scope of your request to limit the number of potentially responsive records so that it can be placed in a different processing track. You can also 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. You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) of the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire into the FOIA mediation services they provide. OGIS can be contacted at the following:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
Room 2510
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001

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Telephone: (202) 741-5770
Facsimile: (202) 741-5769
Toll-Free: (877) 684-6448
Email: ogis@nara.gov

We have not yet made a decision on your request for a fee waiver. We will do so after we determine whether fees will be assessed for this request.

I regret the necessity of this delay, but I assure you that your request will be processed 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 the above number or you may write to me at the Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001. Lastly, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at the telephone number listed above to discuss any aspect of your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Hotchkiss".

Eric Hotchkiss
Government Information Specialist