



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

**MAY 08 2018**

Case Number: F-2017-16276

Brandon Smith  
MuckRock  
DEPT MR 44574  
411A Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Dear Mr. Smith:

This is the initial agency decision on your October 17, 2017, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, 5 U.S.C. § 552, to the Department of State (DOS) for documents sufficient to show how long the portion of the U.S. DOS website on which individuals apply for the immigrant visa lottery has been usable. You also requested additional records related to this topic. The DOS, Office of Information Programs and Services received your FOIA request on the same date and assigned it the tracking number at the top of this letter. Please include the tracking number in all future communications concerning this FOIA request.

The Office of Visa Service, located in the Bureau of Consular Affairs, conducted a search and advised this office that a response was provide directly to you. The Bureau of Information Resource Management also conducted a search but did not locate any records responsive to your request.

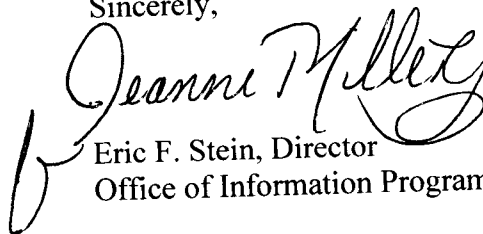
For further assistance or to discuss any aspect of your request, you may contact our FOIA Requester Service Center or our FOIA Public Liaison via email to FOIAstatus@state.gov or by telephone at (202) 261-8484.

If you are not satisfied with DOS's determination in response to your FOIA request, you may administratively appeal by writing to: Appeals Officer, Appeals Review Panel, Office of Information Programs and Services (IPS), U.S. Department of State, State Annex 2 (SA-2), 515 22nd Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20522-8100, or faxed to (202) 261-8571. Appeals must be postmarked within 90 calendar days of the date of this initial agency decision letter. Please include a copy of this letter with your written appeal and clearly state why you disagree with the determinations set forth in this response.

Additionally, if you are not satisfied with DOS's determination in response to your request, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) 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-OGIS, College Park,

Maryland 20740-6001, email address: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone: (202) 741-5770; toll free number: 1-877-684-6448; facsimile: (202) 741-5769.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eric F. Stein". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Eric F. Stein, Director  
Office of Information Programs and Services