

From: Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)
To: [Hurst, Ben](#); [Hunkins, Garrett W.](#)
Cc: [Badell, Rebekah](#)
Subject: RE: FOIA Requests 00278, 00280, 00284
Date: Friday, February 23, 2018 9:25:15 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning Ben,

We are limited by what the IT department can do. While we can have IT search for entire e-mail messages using the search terms you provided, they need us to provide an HHS e-mail address for the to/from/cc/bcc field. That is why we have to identify the HHS employee. They do not have the capability to simply search those fields using a name. The names I provided earlier today, were the only ones in the Department that I located. So I believe they are the names, but just wanted to confirm. We should be able to conduct the search now, is what I am attempting to say.

Mike

Michael Bell
Deputy Director, FOI/Privacy Acts Division
HHS FOIA Public Liaison
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (ASPA)
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Humphrey Bldg, Suite 729H
Phone: (202) 260-0793
michael.bell@hhs.gov

From: Hurst, Ben [<mailto:BHurst@gravesgarrett.com>]
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 10:18 AM
To: Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA); Hunkins, Garrett W.
Cc: Badell, Rebekah
Subject: RE: FOIA Requests 00278, 00280, 00284

Mike,

Thanks for this. What we're really asking is that you search the to/from/cc/bcc field for the name we've given and the entire message for the search terms we've given. We're not asking you to search a particular account for messages with particular search terms. Thus whether or not you all have located the particular employees in a database is not relevant to the processing of our request.

Thanks for your time on this. We look forward to hearing from you later this morning.

Regards,

Ben

From: Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA) [<mailto:Michael.Bell@hhs.gov>]
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 8:18 AM
To: Hurst, Ben; Hunkins, Garrett W.
Cc: Badell, Rebekah

Subject: RE: FOIA Requests 00278, 00280, 00284

Good morning,

I have been going through the files, and I may be able to shorten, or even eliminate, our scheduled call for today. Unfortunately, Natasha Taylor, who responded to your requests, has been out and I have not been able to ask her details about the requests and the actions taken. I have reviewed in detail your requests and the response letters. It looks like all 3 of them were closed because our office was unable to identify where the employees, whose communications you requested, worked.

We have a fairly new HHS employee online directory, which may not have been active when you originally submitted your requests. I have looked up the individuals you listed, but let me confirm that I have located the correct HHS employees.

2018-00278-FOIA-OS: I located Christine A. Oliver at the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH)

2018-00280-FOIA-OS: I located Roberta White at the Indian Health Service

2018-00284-FOIA-OS: I located Mary S. Wolfe as the Director of NTP Office of Liaison Policy and Review

Are these the individuals whose communications you would like searched for communications regarding the Ramazzini Institute using the terms and timeframes you provided?

If so, I can have the requests logged in again for searches to be conducted.

Sincerely,
Mike

Michael Bell
Deputy Director, FOI/Privacy Acts Division
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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (ASPA)
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From: Hurst, Ben [<mailto:BHurst@gravesgarrett.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 10:41 AM
To: Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA); Hunkins, Garrett W.
Cc: Badell, Rebekah
Subject: RE: FOIA Requests 00278, 00280, 00284

Mike,

Please call 816-256-3181 and ask for me. I'll send around an invite. Thank you!

Ben

From: Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA) [<mailto:Michael.Bell@hhs.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 7:00 PM
To: Hunkins, Garrett W.
Cc: Hurst, Ben; Badell, Rebekah
Subject: RE: FOIA Requests 00278, 00280, 00284

That works for me. I can go ahead and give you a call at that time. Just let me know what is a good number to call. Thanks.

Mike

Michael Bell
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From: Hunkins, Garrett W. [<mailto:ghunkins@gravesgarrett.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 9:51 AM
To: Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)
Cc: Hurst, Ben; Badell, Rebekah
Subject: RE: FOIA Requests 00278, 00280, 00284

Thanks for your reply. How does 11-12 a.m. eastern time work? I don't anticipate our call lasting the entire hour.

From: Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA) [<mailto:Michael.Bell@hhs.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 7:50 AM
To: Hunkins, Garrett W.
Cc: Hurst, Ben; Badell, Rebekah
Subject: RE: FOIA Requests 00278, 00280, 00284

Garrett,
Sorry for the delayed response. How about Friday for the call? We are catching up today from the long weekend. I am free most of Friday except for from 10 to 11 am. Let me know if there is a convenient time for you.

Sincerely,
Mike

Michael Bell
Deputy Director, FOI/Privacy Acts Division
HHS FOIA Public Liaison
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (ASPA)
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Humphrey Bldg, Suite 729H

Phone: (202) 260-0793
michael.bell@hhs.gov

From: Hunkins, Garrett W. [<mailto:ghunkins@gravesgarrett.com>]
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2018 1:12 PM
To: Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)
Cc: Hurst, Ben; Badell, Rebekah
Subject: RE: FOIA Requests 00278, 00280, 00284

Mr. Bell,

Following up on this, how does next week look for you?

Garrett

From: Hunkins, Garrett W.
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 3:01 PM
To: 'Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)'
Cc: Hurst, Ben; Badell, Rebekah
Subject: RE: FOIA Requests 00278, 00280, 00284

Mr. Bell,

Thanks for your reply. I understand that many agencies have been shorthanded in processing FOIA requests and appreciate your assistance.

Yes, those are the letters we were referring to. I have attached all of our communications for these requests in three separate PDFs, which are named accordingly. This should hopefully assist you in getting caught up, but feel free to call or email if you have any questions.

How does Tuesday or Friday of next week work for a call? I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Regards.

Garrett

From: Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA) [<mailto:Michael.Bell@hhs.gov>]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 7:52 PM
To: Hunkins, Garrett W.
Cc: Hurst, Ben; Badell, Rebekah
Subject: RE: FOIA Requests 00278, 00280, 00284

Mr. Hunkins,

I apologize for the delay in responding to you. We have been shorthanded for several months as Ms. Taylor has been out of the office. I went into your requests and pulled out the letters she had sent to you previously. Are the letters with her that you are referring to responding to these attached

letters? If so, she may not have been here to receive them because I do not see them in the case files. If you can easily e-mail them to me directly, that would help greatly. Then I am sure a conference call could resolve everything. Let me know if you have any questions and I will make sure we take care of this.

Sincerely,
Mike

Michael Bell
Deputy Director, FOI/Privacy Acts Division
HHS FOIA Public Liaison
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (ASPA)
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
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From: Hunkins, Garrett W. [<mailto:ghunkins@gravesgarrett.com>]
Sent: Friday, February 09, 2018 11:13 AM
To: Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)
Cc: Hurst, Ben; Badell, Rebekah
Subject: RE: FOIA Requests 00278, 00280, 00284

Good morning, Mr. Bell,

I wanted to circle back to this email and request an update. To date, I have yet to receive a response. I called your office today and spoke with Margot Pressley regarding our outstanding requests. Ms. Pressley informed me that you were out of the office until Monday, but would reach out next week. I look forward to your reply.

Best,

Garrett Hunkins

From: Hunkins, Garrett W.
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2018 4:06 PM
To: 'michael.bell@hhs.gov'
Cc: Hurst, Ben; Badell, Rebekah
Subject: FOIA Requests 00278, 00280, 00284

Good afternoon, Mr. Bell,

I left you a voicemail on Tuesday regarding three FOIA requests that my office has pending with HHS. We submitted these requests on November 20, 2017 and have yet to receive any records. We have exchanged several letters with Intake Team Lead Natasha Taylor, but feel that it may be easier to set up a conference call to discuss any issues with processing our requests. We have made similar FOIA requests with other agencies and have found that a telephone call has greatly helped in reducing any confusion related to the FOIA requests and their processing. The requests at issue are:

- 2018-00278-FOIA-OS – FOA Request for Communications with Christine Oliver related to the Ramazzini Institute
- 2018-00280-FOIA-OS – FOIA Request for Communications with Roberta F. White related to the Ramazzini Institute
- 2018-00284-FOIA-OS - FOIA Request for Communications with Mary S. Wolf related to the Ramazzini Institute

If you could please reply at your earliest convenience to set up a call, it would be very much appreciated, but in any event we ask that you reply by Monday, January 22, 2018.

Regards,

Garrett Hunkins

Garrett W. Hunkins



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