



# State of Mississippi

**TATE REEVES**

Governor

May 6, 2020

Emma Best  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 92334  
411A Highland Ave  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Re: Public Records Request from MuckRock News

Dear Emma:

On May 4, 2020, we received your written request, pursuant to the Mississippi Public Records Act for memos, emails, letters, documents, reports, recorded phone calls and virtual meetings and other media discussing or describing COVID-19 response, shutdown and stay-at-home plans and orders, quarantines, and "re-opening" plans, as well as copies of discussions of COVID-19 with CDC, White House, FEMA or similar emergency management agencies, offices of Surgeon General and similar bodies, and management of medical facilities or organizations. As a result of the unprecedented circumstances created by the COVID-19 outbreak, including the shelter in place and safer at home orders, the limitations placed on non-essential state employees, and other exigent circumstances created by the COVID-19 outbreak, our office and other government offices are operating at diminished capacities and we anticipate it will take approximately six weeks after receipt of your cost estimate to process your request and produce the responsive documents.

Due to the extraordinarily broad nature of your request, we anticipate that there will be thousands of pages of potentially responsive documents. Pursuant to the written procedures adopted by our office, administrative fees are charged at a rate of \$15 per hour, technical fees (including search fees) are charged at a rate of \$30 per hour, and legal fees for review of potentially responsive documents are charged at a rate of \$50 per hour. In addition, a printing fee of .15 cents per page is charged in order to facilitate the relevancy and privilege reviews. Our initial cost estimate for the review and production of responsive documents is \$1,000. Please submit payment to our office, and, upon receipt, we will begin the collection and review of potentially responsive documents. In the event that the actual cost of the production is under \$1,000, we will provide a refund with the production. Alternatively, if the actual cost of the production exceeds \$1,000, we will advise you of the amount of the additional fees due prior to production of the responsive documents. Alternatively, you may wish to reconsider and narrow the scope of your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Parker Briden".

Parker Briden  
Public Records Compliance Officer