



Jason Leopold <jasonleopold@gmail.com>

USAID FOIA REQUEST No. F-00146-20 (FOIA Specialist Assignment Email)

parringtoncampbell@usaid.gov <parringtoncampbell@usaid.gov>
To: jasonleopold@gmail.com

Wed, Mar 18, 2020 at 3:12 PM

March 18, 2020

RE: USAID FOIA No. F-00146-20 (FOIA Specialist Assignment Email)

Dear Mr. Leopold:

This acknowledges receipt of your March 17, 2020, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Specifically, you requested records concerning the disclosure of all internal USAID reports, studies, memos, contingency plans on the Coronavirus/COVID-19. All draft and final talking points on the Coronavirus/COVID-19. Any and all records mentioning or referring to pharmaceuticals or other means to treat the Coronavirus/COVID-19. Any and all records mentioning or referring to the classification (SECRET, TOP SECRET, FOUO) of discussions with White House officials and officials in the Executive Office of the President and relating or referring to Coronavirus/COVID-19. Any and all records exchanged with the White House and the Executive Office of the President mentioning or referring to Coronavirus/COVID-19. Any and all emails sent or received by the head of USAID and his/her immediate aides and deputies mentioning or referring to Coronavirus/COVID-19. (Date Range for Record Search: From 1/1/2020 To 2/18/2020). You also requested expedited processing and a fee waiver. Your request for both are granted.

Expedited Processing

The FOIA provides that expedited processing is warranted if the request involves circumstances in which the lack of expedited processing could (1) reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual, or (2) an urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity, if made by a person primarily engaged in disseminating information. You indicated you requested expedited processing "because the this is a matter of urgency and of great public interest and relate to the life, death, health safet of citizens and therefore to report a timely news story.

Fee Waiver

The FOIA provides that fees should be waived or reduced if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations and activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester. As a member of the media, the only applicable fee is duplication. Duplication is \$0.10 per page, but the first 100 pages are free. After review of the fee waiver criteria, your fee waiver request is moot. Since the only applicable fee is duplication, and USAID routinely furnishes responsive records to FOIA requesters in electronic format, it's most likely there will be no duplication fees to assess.

FOIA Specialist

Your request has been assigned to **Theresa Morris, Senior FOIA Specialist**. You may contact **Theresa Morris** by email at thmorris@usaid.gov or by phone on **202-921-5003**. Please reference the tracking number cited above in any future correspondence.

Extending the FOIA's Time Limits due to Unusual Circumstances

The FOIA provides that an agency may extend its time limits when "unusual circumstances" occur in the processing of a request. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i) (2016). Those "unusual circumstances" are set forth in the statute, 5 U.S.C § 552(a)(6)(B)(iii), and are described as:

- 1) The need to search for records from field facilities or other locations separate from the office processing the request;
- 2) The need to search, collect and examine voluminous records; and
- 3) The need for consultation with another agency.

Exhibit H

Based upon the records you have requested, we have determined that one or more unusual circumstances will occur during the processing of your request. Accordingly, your response time-limit has been extended beyond the 20 days required by statute; therefore, 10 additional processing days have been added to your request. To mitigate this action, you may limit the scope of the request so that it can be processed more quickly or to arrange an alternative time to respond.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss reformulation or an alternative time frame for the processing of your request, you may contact the assigned FOIA Specialist noted above. You may also contact USAID's FOIA Public Liaison, Christopher Colbow, at foia@usaid.gov.

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services offered:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
[8601 Adelphi Road](https://www.ogis.gov)-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Telephone: 202-741-5770; Toll Free: 1-877-684-6448
Fax: 202-741-5769

Thank you for your interest in USAID.

Sincerely,

Pamela A-Campbell
FOIA Specialist
Bureau for Management
Office of Management Services
Information and Records Division