



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
7202.4-OS-2020-00430

April 20, 2020

Via email: 90902-14796593@requests.muckrock.com

Jimmy Tobias
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144

Dear Mr. Tobias,

The Office of the Secretary FOIA office received your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated March 25, 2020, on April 6, 2020 and assigned it control number **OS-2020-00430**. Please cite this number in any future communications with our office regarding your request.

- Any records relating to policies or procedures governing public communications by Interior Department employees or contractors about the coronavirus;2) Any records relating to policies or procedures for the coordination of communications strategy between the Interior Department (or its employees) and the Coronavirus Task Force led by Vice President Mike Pence;
- Any records relating to the Interior Department decision to waive entrance fees at national parks due to the coronavirus outbreak in the United States.

Fee Category

We have classified you as a representative of the “media”.

As such, we may charge you for some of our duplication costs, but we will not charge you for our search or review costs; you also are entitled to up to 100 pages of photocopies (or an equivalent volume) for free. See [43 C.F.R. § 2.39](#). If, after taking into consideration your fee category entitlements, our processing costs are less than \$50.00, we will not bill you because the cost of collection would be greater than the fee collected. See [43 C.F.R. § 2.37\(g\)](#)

Agreement To Pay

You agreed to pay \$25 for the processing of your request. If it becomes apparent that your fees will surpass that amount, we will advise you before incurring additional charges and provide you with the opportunity to agree to pay the additional amount needed or narrow the scope of your request.

Exhibit U

Mr. Jimmy Tobias

2

Processing Track

Your request falls into the “Normal” processing track. *See* [43 C.F.R. § 2.15](#).

You agreed to pay \$100 for the processing of your request. If it becomes apparent that your fees will surpass that amount, we will advise you before incurring additional charges and provide you with the opportunity to agree to pay the additional amount needed or narrow the scope of your request.

You may narrow the scope of your request to obtain quicker processing in your currently-assigned track or move the request into a different track (which may have the effect of reducing the cost of processing your request and having it processed more quickly).” If you have any questions about this, please contact us.

Response Outside the Time Limits

As yet, we have been unable to make a determination on your request. We apologize for this delay. You may narrow the scope of your request to obtain quicker processing in your currently-assigned track or move the request into a different track (which may have the effect of reducing the cost of processing your request and having it processed more quickly).

You also may agree to an alternative time period for processing by communicating with us, our FOIA Requester Center, or the FOIA Public Liaison. Contact information for the Department’s FOIA Requester Centers and FOIA Public Liaison is available at <https://www.doi.gov/foia/foiacenters>. You may also seek dispute resolution services from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). If you choose to contact OGIS, you may do so in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road - OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Web: <https://ogis.archives.gov>
Telephone: 202-741-5770
Fax: 202-741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

You may also file an appeal with the Department’s FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer regarding this delay. If you choose to appeal this delay, you may do so anytime between now and the date we make our determination on the FOIA request. Appeals arriving or delivered after 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, will be deemed received on the next workday.

Your appeal must be made in writing. You may submit your appeal and accompanying materials to the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer by mail, courier service, fax, or email. All communications concerning your appeal should be clearly marked with the words: "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL." You must also include with your appeal copies of all correspondence between you and Office of the Secretary concerning your FOIA request, including your original FOIA request and this response. Failure to include with your appeal all correspondence between you and Office of the

Secretary will result in the Department's rejection of your appeal, unless the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer determines (in the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer’s sole discretion) that good cause exists to accept the defective appeal.

Mr. Jimmy Tobias

3

Please include your name and daytime telephone number (or the name and telephone number of an appropriate contact), email address and fax number (if available) in case the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer needs additional information or clarification of your appeal.

DOI FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office Contact Information

Department of the Interior
Office of the Solicitor
1849 C Street, N.W.
MS-6556 MIB

Washington, DC 20240

Attn: FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office

Telephone: (202) 208-5339

Fax: (202) 208-6677

Email: FOIA.Appeals@sol.doi.gov

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of FOIA. See [5 U.S.C. 552\(c\)](#). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

We regret the delay and appreciate your consideration. For more information on FOIA Administrative Appeals, you may review the Department's FOIA regulations at [43 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart H](#). If you have any questions, you may contact us by phone at 202- 513-0765, by fax at 202-219-2374, by email at os_foia@ios.doi.gov, or by mail at U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, MS-7328, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Please note that using OGIS services does not affect the timing of filing an appeal with the Department's FOIA & Privacy Act Appeals Officer. Contact information for the Department's FOIA Public Liaison, who you may also seek dispute resolution services from, is available at <https://www.doi.gov/foia/foiacenters>.

Sincerely,

LEAH
FAIRM
AN

Digitally signed
by LEAH
FAIRMAN
Date:
2020.04.20
14:10:36 -04'00'

Leah Fairman
Office of the Secretary
FOIA Office



DOI OS COVID19 (Department of Interior, Office of the Secretary)

Share



[Jimmy Tobias](#) filed this request with the [Department of Interior, Office of the Secretary of the United States of America.](#)

Tracking #	602977, OS-2020-00429
	602977
Multi Request	DOI OS COVID19

Submitted	March 17, 2020
Due	April 14, 2020
Est. Comple...	None

STATUS

Awaiting Response

EMBARGO

This request is embargoed until 30 days after it is finished.

TAGS

coronavirus covid
covid-19

Exhibit V

MuckRock users can file, duplicate, track, and share public records requests like this one. [Learn more.](#)

File a Request

4 Communications 1 File

Filter communications

Collapse All

From: Jimmy Tobias

03/25/2020

Subject: Freedom of Information Act Request: DOI OS COVID19 (Department of Interior, Office of t...

Portal

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, I hereby request the following records:

1) Any and all emails, including email attachments, sent or received by David Bernhardt, Katharine MacGregor, Todd Willens, Daniel Jorjani, Douglas Domenech, Lori Mashburn, Susan Combs and/or James Cason that mention or refer to the Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19 or COVID19.

2) All policy and legal guidance, any and all internal letters and memos, and any and all drafts and final talking points produced by the Office of the Secretary and/or the Office of the Solicitor that referred to the virus.

This request seeks records produced since February 1, 2020.

I am a reporter for The Guardian.

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Tobias

From: Department of Interior, Office of the Secretary

04/20/2020

Subject: FOIA Request - OS-2020-00429

Email

Dear Mr. Tobias,

Please find attached the Delay letter for FOIA Request OS-2020-00429.

Thanks,
Michelle McBryde

--
Department of the Interior
Office of the Secretary, FOIA Office
1849 C Street, NW, MS-7328
Washington, D.C. 20240
os_foia@ios.doi.gov
(202) 513-0765 - phone
(202) 219-2374 - fax

 20.04.20_20-00429_Ack
[Download](#)

From: Jimmy Tobias 05/13/2020

Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Act Request #602977, OS-2020-00429 [Email](#)

Hello DOI FOIA Office,

Please let me know when I can expect to receive records related to this request. Thank you.

Jimmy Tobias

From: Department of Interior, Office of the Secretary 05/15/2020

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Freedom of Information Act Request #602977, OS-2020-00429 [Email](#)

Dear Mr. Tobias,

At this time, we are waiting on the program offices to send us all potentially responsive records for the request that you inquired about as we do not retain records in the OS FOIA office. Once we have those records, we can begin processing them. While we cannot provide you a timeline at this point, please be assured we are working to complete your request as promptly as we can.

Sincerely,

Emily Karp

--
Department of the Interior
Office of the Secretary, FOIA Office
1849 C Street, NW, MS-7328
Washington, D.C. 20240
os_foia@ios.doi.gov
(202) 513-0765 - phone
(202) 219-2374 - fax

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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
7202.4-OS-2020-00429

April 20, 2020

Via email: 90841-21283537@requests.muckrock.com

Jimmy Tobias
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144

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Exhibit W

Mr. Jimmy Tobias

2

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Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road - OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Web: <https://ogis.archives.gov>
Telephone: 202-741-5770
Fax: 202-741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

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Office of the Solicitor
1849 C Street, N.W.
MS-6556 MIB

Washington, DC 20240

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Sincerely,

LEAH
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Digitally signed
by LEAH
FAIRMAN
Date:
2020.04.20
15:00:20 -04'00'

Leah Fairman
Office of the Secretary
FOIA Office



DOI OS COVID19 (Department of Interior, Office of the Solicitor)

Share



[Jimmy Tobias](#) filed this request with the [Department of Interior, Office of the Solicitor of the United States of America.](#)

Tracking #	602978, SOL-2020-00124
	602978
Multi Request	DOI OS COVID19

Submitted	March 17, 2020
Due	April 14, 2020
Est. Comple...	None

STATUS

Awaiting Response

EMBARGO

This request is embargoed until 30 days after it is finished.

TAGS

coronavirus covid
covid-19

Exhibit X

MuckRock users can file, duplicate, track, and share public records requests like this one. [Learn more.](#)

[File a Request](#)

3 Communications

1 File

Filter communications

Collapse All

From: Jimmy Tobias

03/25/2020

Subject: Freedom of Information Act Request: DOI OS COVID19 (Department of Interior, Office of t...

Portal

To Whom It May Concern:

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This request seeks records produced since February 1, 2020.

I am a reporter for The Guardian.

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Tobias

From: Department of Interior, Office of the Solicitor

04/08/2020

Subject: Combined Acknowledgment Letter for FOIA Requests SOL-2020-00110 and SOL-2020-00124

Email

Good morning Mr. Tobias,

Attached is the Solicitor's combined acknowledgment letter for your FOIA requests received

on March 18 and 25, 2020.

Sincerely,

Lance Purvis
Office of the Solicitor FOIA Officer



Combined_Acknowledgment_Letter_SOL-2020-00111_SOL-2020-00124_Tobias

[Download](#)

From: Jimmy Tobias

05/13/2020

Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Act Request #602978, SOL-2020-00124

[Email](#)

Hello SOL FOIA Office,

Please let me know when I can expect to receive records related to this request. Thank you.

Jimmy Tobias

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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
SOL-2020-00111, SOL-2020-00124

April 8, 2020

Via email: 89398-83044964@requests.muckrock.com,
90840-96096423@requests.muckrock.com

Jimmy Tobias
The Guardian
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144

Dear Mr. Tobias,

On March 18 and 25, 2020, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor received your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. In your requests, you specifically ask for:

#SOL-2020-00111

“Any memos, power point presentations, documents, or email communications, including email attachments, briefings, calendar entries and summaries, related to any meetings held on March 3 and March 4, 2020 between top Interior officials like David Bernhardt or Daniel Jorjani and the Interior Department's FOIA officers.”

#SOL-2020-00124

“1) Any and all emails, including email attachments, sent or received by David Bernhardt, Katharine MacGregor, Todd Willens, Daniel Jorjani, Douglas Domenech, Lori Mashburn, Susan Combs and/or James Cason that mention or refer to the Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19 or COVID19.

2) All policy and legal guidance, any and all internal letters and memos, and any and all drafts and final talking points produced by the Office of the Secretary and/or the Office of the Solicitor that referred to the virus.

This request seeks records produced since February 1, 2020.”

Your request has been assigned FOIA Tracking Numbers as indicated above. Please cite these numbers in future communications with the Office of the Solicitor concerning your requests. We have classified you as a “News Media” requester. As such, we may charge you for some of our duplication costs, but we will not charge you for our search or review costs. You also are entitled to up to 100 pages of photocopies (or an equivalent volume) for free. If, after taking into

Exhibit Y

consideration your fee category entitlements, our processing costs are less than \$50.00, we will not bill you because the cost of collection would be greater than the fee collected.

Given the subject of your request, we are searching within the Office of the Solicitor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lance Purvis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lance Purvis
Office of the Solicitor FOIA Officer