

# **EXHIBIT O**



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

29 April 2020

Ms. Amrit Singh  
Director, Accountability, Liberty, and Transparency Division  
Open Society Justice Initiative  
224 West 57<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10019

Reference: F-2020-01331

Dear Ms. Singh:

On 28 April 2020, the Office of the Information and Privacy Coordinator received your 27 April 2020 correspondence requesting records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), specifically:

**I. Notice of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19**

- 1. Records indicating when the Executive Branch was first informed of what is now known as SARS-CoV-2 and/or COVID-19.**
- 2. Records indicating the Executive Branch's response when it was first informed of what is now known as SARS-CoV-2 and/or COVID-19.**
- 3. Records indicating when President Donald Trump was first informed of what is now known as SARS-CoV-2 and/or COVID-19.**
- 4. Records indicating President Trump's response when he was first informed of what is now known as SARS-CoV-2 and/or COVID-19.**
- 5. Records including and/or discussing communications (before March 1, 2020) to and from the National Center for Medical Intelligence ("NCMI") about what is now known as SARS-CoV-2 and/or COVID-19.**
- 6. Records including and/or discussing January 2020 communications to and from a State Department epidemiologist about what is now known as SARS-CoV-2 and/or COVID-19.**
- 7. Records including and/or discussing January 2020 communications between Robert Redfield, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Chinese officials about what is now known as SARS-CoV-2 and/or COVID-19.**
- 8. Records including and/or discussing communications (from January 1, 2020 to February 29, 2020) between Alex Azar, Secretary, Health and Human Services, and President Donald Trump about what is now known as SARS-CoV-2 and/or COVID-19.**

9. Records including and/or discussing communications (from January 1, 2020 to February 29, 2020) to and from Dr. Carter Mecher, senior medical advisor, Department of Veterans Affairs, about what is now known as SARS-CoV-2 and/or COVID-19.
10. Records including and/or discussing communications (from January 1, 2020 to March 31, 2020) to and from Robert Kadlec, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, about asymptomatic cases spreading what is now known as SARS-CoV-2 and/or COVID-19.
11. Records discussing communications (from January 1, 2020 to February 29, 2020) from Peter Navarro, President Trump's trade advisor, about what is now known as SARS-CoV-2 and/or COVID-19.

## **II. The Executive Branch's Efforts to Counter SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19**

12. Records concerning extraordinary presidential authority, including but not limited to "presidential emergency actions" relating to what is now known as SARS-CoV-2 and/or COVID-19.
13. Records indicating dates and agendas for meetings and decisions of the official White House coronavirus task force during January and February 2020.
14. Records including and/or discussing "Four steps to mitigation," a February/March 2020 plan for addressing what is now known as SARS-CoV-2 and/or COVID-19.
15. Records including and/or discussing a February 2020 document titled "U.S. Government Response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus."
16. Records discussing Remdesivir, Chloroquine, Hydroxychloroquine ("Plaquenil"), Azithromycin ("Zithromax") and/or other drugs or substances, such as disinfectants, for treating what is now known as SARS-CoV-2 and/or COVID-19.
17. Records including and/or discussing instructions to classify meetings and/or records relating to what is now known as SARS-CoV-2 and/or COVID-19.
18. Communications between your agency and the White House regarding what is now known as SARS-CoV-2 and/or COVID-19.
19. Communications between the Executive Branch and non-government entities (including but not limited to private-sector companies, academic institutions, and/or individuals) capable of developing tests, or assisting in testing, for what is now known as SARS-CoV-2 and/or COVID-19.

## **III. Executive Branch SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 Communications with Congress, State Governors, and the WHO**

20. Records including and/or discussing communications (before March 1, 2020) between any member of the Executive Branch and Congress regarding what is now known as SARS-CoV-2 and/or COVID-19, including but not limited to briefings to Congress, members of Congress, Congressional Committees or Subcommittees, and/or Congressional staff about what is now known as SARS-CoV-2 and/or COVID-19.

**21. Records including and/or discussing communications between the Executive Branch and the World Health Organization (“WHO”) about what is now known as SARS-CoV-2 and/or COVID-19.**

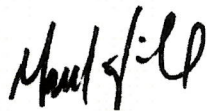
This letter serves to acknowledge that CIA has received your request, and to further let you know that CIA has assigned your request the reference number provided above. In future correspondence, please use this number to facilitate this office’s location of your case information.

We note that you have requested expedited processing of your case. Generally, CIA handles all requests in the order in which they are received, that is, “first in, first out.” When a requester can articulate a compelling need for the information they have requested, in accordance with CIA FOIA regulations as set forth at 32 C.F.R. 1900.34, CIA will make an occasional exception to its standard processing procedure. **With regard to your request, upon review, CIA determined that it meets the criteria for expedited processing.** Specifically, the request is made by an entity primarily engaged in disseminating information, and the request is for information relevant to a subject of public urgency concerning an actual or alleged federal activity. **Therefore, your request for expedited processing is hereby granted, in accordance with CIA FOIA regulations.**

Furthermore, we note that you have also requested a waiver of fees associated with this case. Please be advised that we are administratively waiving fees associated with this case.

In the event that the Office of the Information and Privacy Coordinator has questions or requires additional information or clarification from you to proceed with processing your request, a representative will contact you. Unless you object, we will search for CIA-originated records according to the timeframes you have provided. You may contact this office via telephone at (703) 613-1287, should you wish to withdraw your request. To check the status of your request, please visit [https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/foia\\_status/](https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/foia_status/) and input the reference number provided above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Lilly'.

Mark Lilly  
Information and Privacy Coordinator