

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Israel bonds
From: Jason Brady <Jason.Brady@auditor.ar.gov>
Date: 10/23/2024, 3:39 PM
To: Amy Fecher <amy.fecher@arkansas.gov>, Mark White <markw@artrs.gov>
CC: Auditor Dennis Milligan <auditor@auditor.ar.gov>, Wendy Spadoni <wendy.spadoni@auditor.ar.gov>

As you both know, the Auditor in his time as treasurer of state requested the legislature to pass legislation that would allow the state or at least the treasurer of state to invest in Israel bonds.

The Auditor has been contacted by a representative of Israel Bonds and asked if he would arrange a meeting with both of you and your investment teams in November to visit.

On the Auditors behalf, I am making that request of you.

We are looking for a day both visits could be conducted - say no more than 1 hour - to maximize his trip to Arkansas.

The Auditor has a couple of other meetings for Larry he is also trying to arrange as well - but your meetings are Larry's priority.

I am out Nov. 7-12 on personal leave.

I assume we will want to block out the Wednesday before Thanksgiving as well.

Would you both please agree to have a meeting with him and have your exec assistant's send 3 or 4 of days next month that Might work and maybe we can start from there?

Thank you for the consideration.

Jason

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Israel bonds
From: "Amy Fecher (APERS)" <amy.fecher@arkansas.gov>
Date: 10/23/2024, 3:58 PM
To: Jason Brady <Jason.Brady@auditor.ar.gov>, Mark White <markw@artrs.gov>
CC: Auditor Dennis Milligan <auditor@auditor.ar.gov>, Wendy Spadoni <wendy.spadoni@auditor.ar.gov>

Jason,

I am happy to meet. November is particularly difficult for me. I am on leave from November 8-24. My only days available are November 4-7, or 28-29. I apologize for not being more flexible! I am happy to look at December dates if these dates do not work for others.

Amy

-----Original Message-----

From: Jason Brady <Jason.Brady@auditor.ar.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 3:40 PM
To: Amy Fecher (APERS) <amy.fecher@arkansas.gov>; Mark White <markw@artrs.gov>
Cc: Auditor Dennis Milligan <auditor@auditor.ar.gov>; Wendy Spadoni <wendy.spadoni@auditor.ar.gov>
Subject: Israel bonds

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Thank you for the consideration.

Jason

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Israel bonds

From: Mark White <markw@artrs.gov>

Date: 10/23/2024, 5:03 PM

To: "Amy Fecher (APERS)" <amy.fecher@arkansas.gov>, Jason Brady <Jason.Brady@auditor.ar.gov>

CC: Auditor Dennis Milligan <auditor@auditor.ar.gov>, Wendy Spadoni <wendy.spadoni@auditor.ar.gov>

I'd be glad to meet as well. The November 4-7 dates work for me. I also have availability the week of November 18, if for some reason the visits can or should be split.

Thanks,

Mark



Mark White

Executive Director

Arkansas Teacher Retirement System

<http://www.artrs.gov/>

markw@artrs.gov

501.621.8853

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Arkansas Constitution Art. 14, § 1.

On 10/23/2024 3:58 PM, Amy Fecher (APERS) wrote:

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Jason

Sent from my iPhone

Mark White <markw@artrs.gov>

—Attachments:

markw.vcf

301 bytes

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA Submission
From: Badria Mryyan <[REDACTED]>
Date: 12/10/2024, 10:26 AM
To: Mark White <markw@artrs.gov>
CC: [REDACTED],
jennifer lenow <[REDACTED]>

Hi Mark,

Thank you for your response and your inclusion of ARTRS's investments in Israel from November. I am curious if ARTRS has any investments in Israel bonds, which would be owned by the Development Corporation for Israel. I believe their headquarters would actually be in New York; their mailing address is P.O. Box 5263, New York, NY 10150-5263.

Let me know when would be a good time to speak on the phone about this request.

I appreciate your time!

Best,
Badria Mryyan
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 10:58 AM Mark White <markw@artrs.gov> wrote:

Good morning, we are in receipt of your FOIA request. It is not clear from this vague description what specifically you are looking for. We must respectfully deny your request as it is not "...sufficiently specific to enable the custodian to locate the records with reasonable effort." Ark. Code Ann. § 25-19-105(a)(2)(C).

FOIA does not require us to compile information or create a record in response to a request, but in the spirit of transparency I have created a list showing investments directly held by ATRS in companies based in Israel, as of November 1, and that list is attached. If this is not what you are looking for, or if you are looking for something broader than this, please respond back and help me understand what specifically you are trying to find.

You are welcome to give me a call if it would be more helpful to discuss. I feel sure we can find what it is you are looking for with some more specific guidance.

Thanks,

Mark



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Subject:[EXTERNAL] FOIA Submission

Date:Thu, 5 Dec 2024 17:08:52 -0600

From:Badria Mryyan <[REDACTED]>

To:info@artrs.gov, jenniferl@artrs.gov

Good afternoon,

Under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act § 25-19-101 et seq., I am requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of public records maintained by the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System.

The specific subject of my request is as follows: **Any records since August 1, 2017 that reference the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System's investments in the country of Israel.**

If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$20.

The Arkansas Freedom of Information Act requires a response within **three** business days. If access to the records I am requesting will take longer, please contact me with information about when I might expect copies or the ability to inspect the requested records.

If you deny any or all of this request, please cite each specific exemption you feel justifies the refusal to release the information and notify me of the appeal procedures available to me under the law.

Lastly, if you are not the proper custodian of the records I have requested, please provide the contact information for the proper custodian.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

/s/ Badria Mryyan

Badria Mryyan

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA Submission

From: Mark White <markw@artrs.gov>

Date: 12/10/2024, 11:27 AM

To: Rod Graves <rodg@artrs.gov>

FYI

—

Mark White

Executive Director

Arkansas Teacher Retirement System

<http://www.artrs.gov/>

markw@artrs.gov

501.621.8853

Begin forwarded message:

From: Badria Mryyan <[REDACTED]>

Date: December 10, 2024 at 10:26:58 AM CST

To: Mark White <markw@artrs.gov>

Cc: [REDACTED], jennifer lenow <[REDACTED]>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA Submission

Hi Mark,

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Thanks,

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Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,
/s/ Badria Mryyan

Badria Mryyan
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA Submission

From: Mark White <markw@artrs.gov>

Date: 12/10/2024, 2:52 PM

To: Badria Mryyan <[REDACTED]>

CC: [REDACTED],

jennifer lenow <[REDACTED]>, Jennifer Liwo <jenniferl@artrs.gov>

I'm aware of the Israel bonds issued by the Development Corporation for Israel, and no, we do not have any direct investment in those bonds. If tomorrow would be good for you for a phone call, I have availability at 10am, 1:30pm, and 3pm. Just let me know what works best for you, and if it needs to be later in the week I can give you some additional times.

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Badria Mryyan

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Mark White <markw@artrs.gov>

—Attachments:

markw.vcf

301 bytes

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA Submission
From: Badria Mryyan <[REDACTED]>
Date: 12/10/2024, 5:30 PM
To: Mark White <markw@artrs.gov>

Hi Mark!

Thank you. Let's chat at 1:30 pm tomorrow. I will give you a call then!

Thanks,
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On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 2:52 PM Mark White <markw@artrs.gov> wrote:

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Badria Mryyan

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: Mark White <markw@artrs.gov>
Date: 12/10/2024, 5:45 PM
To: Jennifer Liwo <jenniferl@artrs.gov>

FYI



Mark White
Executive Director
Arkansas Teacher Retirement System
<http://www.artrs.gov/>

markw@artrs.gov

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Subject:[EXTERNAL] Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA Submission
Date:Tue, 10 Dec 2024 17:30:22 -0600
From:Badria Mryyan <[REDACTED]>
To:Mark White <markw@artrs.gov>

Hi Mark!

Thank you. Let's chat at 1:30 pm tomorrow. I will you give you a call then!

Thanks,
Badria

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Sincerely,
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Badria Mryyan


Mark White <markw@artrs.gov>

—Attachments:

markw.vcf

301 bytes

Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA Submission
From: Mark White <markw@artrs.gov>
Date: 12/11/2024, 1:41 PM
To: Rod Graves <rodg@artrs.gov>

I talked with the requester just now, and she is wanting to know if there is a little more detail around some of our indirect/pooled investments and the level of detail reporting we get back. I recall that we have the bond index fund we went into when we made the fixed income transition, do we have any other pooled funds in fixed income that might have purchased any of these Israel bonds?

Thanks,

Mark



Mark White
Executive Director
Arkansas Teacher Retirement System
<http://www.artrs.gov/>

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I appreciate your time!

Best,
Badria Mryyan
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 10:58 AM Mark White <markw@artrs.gov> wrote:

Good morning, we are in receipt of your FOIA request. It is not clear from this vague description what specifically you are looking for. We must respectfully deny your request as it is not "...sufficiently specific to enable the custodian to locate the records with reasonable effort." Ark. Code Ann. § 25-19-105(a)(2)(C).

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You are welcome to give me a call if it would be more helpful to discuss. I feel sure we can find what it is you are looking for with some more specific guidance.

Thanks,

Mark



Mark White
Executive Director
Arkansas Teacher Retirement System
<http://www.artrs.gov/>

markw@artrs.gov
501.621.8853

"Intelligence and virtue being the safeguards of liberty and the bulwark of a free and good government, the State shall ever maintain a general, suitable and efficient system of free public schools."

Arkansas Constitution Art. 14, § 1.

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:[EXTERNAL] FOIA Submission

Date:Thu, 5 Dec 2024 17:08:52 -0600

From:Badria Mryyan <[REDACTED]>

To:info@artrs.gov, jenniferl@artrs.gov

Good afternoon,

Under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act § 25-19-101 et seq., I am requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of public records maintained by the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System.

The specific subject of my request is as follows: **Any records since August 1, 2017 that reference the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System's investments in the country of Israel.**

If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$20.

The Arkansas Freedom of Information Act requires a response within **three** business days. If access to the records I am requesting will take longer, please contact me with information about when I might expect copies or the ability to inspect the requested records.

If you deny any or all of this request, please cite each specific exemption you feel justifies the refusal to release the information and notify me of the appeal procedures available to me under the law.

Lastly, if you are not the proper custodian of the records I have requested, please provide the contact information for the proper custodian.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

/s/ Badria Mryyan

Badria Mryyan

Mark White <markw@artrs.gov>

—Attachments:

markw.vcf

301 bytes

Subject: Re: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA Submission
From: Rod Graves <rodg@artrs.gov>
Date: 12/11/2024, 4:49 PM
To: Mark White <markw@artrs.gov>

Please see attached. ATRS is roughly 17.6% of the collective fund.

Thanks

On 12/11/2024 1:41 PM, Mark White wrote:

I talked with the requester just now, and she is wanting to know if there is a little more detail around some of our indirect/pooled investments and the level of detail reporting we get back. I recall that we have the bond index fund we went into when we made the fixed income transition, do we have any other pooled funds in fixed income that might have purchased any of these Israel bonds?

Thanks,

Mark



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Subject:[EXTERNAL] Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA Submission
Date:Tue, 10 Dec 2024 17:30:22 -0600
From:Badria Mryyan <[REDACTED]>
To:Mark White <markw@artrs.gov>

Hi Mark!

Thank you. Let's chat at 1:30 pm tomorrow. I will give you a call then!

Thanks,
Badria

On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 2:52 PM Mark White <markw@artrs.gov> wrote:

I'm aware of the Israel bonds issued by the Development Corporation for Israel, and no, we do not have any direct investment in those bonds. If tomorrow would be good for you for a phone call, I have availability at 10am, 1:30pm, and 3pm. Just let me know what works best for you, and if it needs to be later in the week I can give you some additional times.

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On 12/10/2024 10:26 AM, Badria Mryyan wrote:

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Date:Thu, 5 Dec 2024 17:08:52 -0600

From:Badria Mryyan <[\[REDACTED\]](#)>

To:info@artrs.gov, jenniferl@artrs.gov

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Sincerely,

/s/ Badria Mryyan

Badria Mryyan

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Rod Graves <rodg@artrs.gov>

—Attachments:

2024-11-30_SSgA Bond Index.xlsx

2.1 MB

rodg.vcf

297 bytes

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA Submission
From: Mark White <markw@artrs.gov>
Date: 12/12/2024, 5:18 PM
To: Badria Mryyan <[REDACTED]>
CC: Jennifer Liwo <jenniferl@artrs.gov>

It was a pleasure speaking with you the other day. Per our conversation, my staff reviewed what reporting we receive from funds and similar pooled investment vehicles that are likely to include bond purchases. Only one of those funds in our current portfolio, a bond index fund operated by State Street, provides us with detail reporting showing the fund's individual bond purchases. I am attaching the most recent report received from State Street. Please keep in mind that the dollar figures and totals shown in this report are for the fund as a whole and do not represent our System's ownership interest.

If you have any questions or need anything else, please let me know.

Thanks,

Mark



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—Attachments:

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Subject: [EXTERNAL] You're Invited: A Private & Exclusive Briefing

From: Israel Bonds <ethan.behling@israelbonds.com>

Date: 12/26/2024, 11:10 AM

To: markw@artrs.gov



Ethan.Behling@IsraelBonds.com

212.339.8280

israelbonds.com

Development Corporation for Israel. This is not an offering which can be made only by prospectus. Read the prospectus carefully before investing to fully evaluate the risks associated with investing in Israel bonds. Member FINRA.



Development Corporation for Israel
P.O. Box 5263, New York, NY 10150
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From: Israel Bonds <ethan.behling@israelbonds.com>

Date: 12/26/2024, 11:10 AM

To: rodg@artrs.gov



Ethan.Behling@IsraelBonds.com

212.339.8280



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