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DOGE

DOGE Employees Ordered to Stop Using Slack While Agency Transitions to a Records System Not Subject to FOIA

JASON KOEBLER,

JOSEPH COX

• FEB 5, 2025 AT 11:49 AM

Employees at Elon Musk's agency have been told "OMB is asking us to stop generating new slack messages starting now."




IMAGE: MARCEL GRABOWSKI / UK GOVERNMENT/IDENTITY

Employees working for the agency now known as DOGE have been ordered to stop using Slack while government lawyers attempt to transition the agency to one that is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 404 Media has learned.

"Good morning, everyone! As a reminder, please refrain from using Slack at the moment while our various general counsels figure out the best way to handle the records migration to our new EOP [Executive Office of the President] component," a message seen by 404 Media reads. "Will update as soon as we have more information!"

Another message seen by 404 Media provides an update and asserts that the US Digital Service (which is now DOGE) will "split" from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

"I spoke to the DOGE team about Slack. Because of the USDS split from OMB, OMB is asking us to stop generating new slack messages **starting now**," the message says. "We expect this to be a temporary pause, and we expect to continue having access to historical Slack material. We may have intermittent access as we go through this system transition so continue to use good data hygiene and backup any critical material. We will keep you updated."

Do you know more about DOGE or USDS? We would love to hear from you. Using a non-work device, you can contact Jason on Signal at +1 202 505 1702. You can contact Joseph on Signal at +44 20 8133 5190.

The messages indicate that, under Elon Musk's leadership, DOGE is actively taking steps to make sure its communications and records are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act, a records transparency law commonly used by journalists and lawyers to hold government accountable. Instead, DOGE is asserting that rather than reporting up through the Office of Management and Budget as the United States Digital Service did for years, it is reporting through the Executive Office of the President and to White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles. Under OMB, it was generally subject to FOIA. Under the White House Chief of Staff, records it creates are generally not subject to FOIA.

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