



OFFICE of GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

April 14, 2015 — Sent via email

[REDACTED]

Re: Case No.: 201500577
NG: CM

NATIONAL
ARCHIVES
and RECORDS
ADMINISTRATION

8601 ADELPHI ROAD
OGIS
COLLEGE PARK, MD
20740-6001

web: www.ogis.archives.gov
e-mail: ogis@nara.gov
phone: 202-741-5770
toll-free: 1-877-684-6448
fax: 202-741-5769



Dear [REDACTED]:

This responds to your April 6, 2015 request for assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), which we received via email. Your request for assistance pertains to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). You also discuss a number of non-FOIA issues, such as the federal government's role in safeguarding human research subjects.

Congress created OGIS to complement existing FOIA practice and procedure; we strive to work in conjunction with the existing request and appeal process. The goal is for OGIS to allow, whenever practical, the requester to exhaust his or her remedies within the agency, including the appeal process. OGIS has no investigatory or enforcement power, nor can we compel an agency to release documents. OGIS serves as the Federal FOIA Ombudsman and our jurisdiction is limited to assisting with the FOIA process.

I understand that you submitted a request to the FBI for records related to [REDACTED]. OGIS staff contacted the FBI regarding request No. [REDACTED], and the agency provided copies of its responses to your request. I understand that the FBI informed you on [REDACTED] that it found no records responsive to your request. It appears that you provided the FBI with additional information related to the records you seek; on [REDACTED], the FBI informed you that it performed another search for responsive records using the additional information you provided and again found no records. The Department of Justice Office of Information Policy (OIP) affirmed this response. In your correspondence to OGIS, you raise concerns about the FBI's and OIP's actions on your request.

As you are aware, OGIS recently closed your case (No. [REDACTED]) related to other FBI requests for records related to [REDACTED]. Since your FOIA request No. [REDACTED] and the FBI's responses to that request are similar to those we examined in OGIS case No. [REDACTED], there is no additional assistance we can provide you with this matter. We have enclosed a copy of the letter closing case No. [REDACTED] for your reference.

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Regarding the other issues you raise in your correspondence, OGIS's mandate is strictly limited to the FOIA and we cannot assist you with substantive matters related to FBI investigations.

At this time, there is no further assistance OGIS can offer. Thank you for bringing this matter to OGIS. We will close your case.

Sincerely,

Nikki Gramian, Acting Director
Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)

cc: Dennis Argall, FBI FOIA

Enclosure