



OFFICE of GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

September 19, 2013 — Sent via e mail

Mr. Michael Stern
8529 Century Oak Court
Fairfax Station, VA 22039

Re: Case No. 201300684
MN: NG: CZ

NATIONAL
ARCHIVES
and RECORDS
ADMINISTRATION
8601 ADELPHI ROAD
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 Mr. Stern:

This letter is in response to your July 15, 2013 request to the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). You wrote to OGIS asking for assistance with a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) delay with the Department of Treasury.

Congress created OGIS under the OPEN Government Act of 2007 to resolve FOIA disputes with the goal of avoiding litigation. Since opening our doors in September 2009, OGIS has received more than 1,200 cases and has successfully resolved most of them by facilitating discussions between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. We offer mediation services as a non-binding alternative to litigation. Participation in OGIS's mediation services is voluntary. We cannot order an agency to release records.

In your case, you filed a FOIA request on July 11, 2011 for legal documents pertaining to the Public Debt Clause. The Treasury Department wrote you on July 18, 2011 and advised that unusual circumstances exist for your request. Under FOIA, a voluminous amount of responsive records qualifies as an unusual circumstance that allows the agency 10 additional days to process your request on top of the 20 days ordinarily allowed. You explained to me that you wrote Treasury in July 2012 to inquire about the status of your request but did not receive a response. You said you also tried calling Hugh Gilmore, the Director of Disclosure Services for Treasury in June and July of this year, but were unable to connect with him to learn more about the status of your request.

OGIS also reached out to Mr. Gilmore to ask about the status of your request. He said that the request is currently under review. We asked Mr. Gilmore to provide an estimated date of completion as required by the FOIA statute at 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(7)(B)(ii), but he said that it was not available at this time.

I hope this information has been helpful to you. At this time, there is no further assistance we can offer you in this case. However, please feel free to contact us in the future if you need additional assistance with this request. Thank you for bringing this matter to OGIS; we will consider your case closed.

Sincerely,


for / Miriam Nisbet, Director
Office of Government Information Services

cc: Mr. Hugh Gilmore, Director of Disclosure Services, U.S. Department of Treasury



