

21 APRIL 2016



NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-6000

FOIA Case: 78699A
19 April 2016

JOHN L YOUNG
251 WEST 89th STREET
NEW YORK NY 10024

Dear Mr. Young:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of 21 July 2014, which was received by this office on 29 July 2014, for "Any and all information concerning documents reportedly taken from the National Security Agency by Edward Snowden including information on parties reportedly involved and specific inquiries described in the attached lists: 1. Institutions and persons who have been publicly identified as having access to the documents. 2. Accounting of the Edward Snowden documents. 3. Public release of the Edward Snowden Documents." Your request has been assigned Case Number 78699. There are no assessable fees for this request.

Records pertaining to Mr. Snowden maintained by this Agency related to his security processing, employment status or activities, training records, or other activities, including those collected relating to the unauthorized disclosure of classified information, are exempt from release in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(1), 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(3), and 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(7).

The information pertaining to Mr. Snowden is withheld pursuant to the seventh exemption of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. Section 552(b)(7)), which protects from disclosure records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes. This includes information that, if released, could interfere with enforcement proceedings, could cause an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, could reveal the identities of confidential sources, or would reveal law enforcement techniques and procedures. All of the information maintained by this Agency relating to Mr. Snowden meets the threshold requirements for withholding under exemption 7 of the FOIA and is withheld under (b)(7)(A), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(D), and (b)(7)(E) of the FOIA.

In addition, this Agency is authorized by statute to protect certain information concerning its activities, as well as the names of its employees. Such information is exempt from disclosure pursuant to the third exemption of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. Section 552(b)(3)), which provides for the withholding of information specifically protected from disclosure by statute. The specific statute applicable in this case is Section 6, Public Law 86-36 (50 U.S. Code 3605). We have determined that such information exists in these records, and it has been withheld accordingly. Other statutes that apply are Title 18 U.S. Code 798 and Title 50 U.S. Code 3024(i).

Some of the withheld information was also found to be currently and properly classified in accordance with Executive Order 13526. This information meets the criteria for classification as set forth in Subparagraphs (b), (c), (d) and (g) of Section 1.4 and remains classified TOP SECRET, SECRET, and CONFIDENTIAL as provided in Section 1.2 of the Executive Order. The information is classified because its disclosure could reasonably be expected to cause exceptionally grave damage to the national security. Because the information is currently and properly classified, it is exempt from disclosure pursuant to the first exemption of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. Section 552(b)(1)).

You may appeal this decision. If you decide to appeal, you should do so in the manner outlined below.

- The appeal must be in writing and addressed to:

NSA/CSS FOIA/PA Appeal Authority (DJ4),
National Security Agency
9800 Savage Road STE 6248
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-6248

- It must be postmarked no later than 60 calendar days of the date of this letter.
- Please include the case number provided above.
- Please describe with sufficient detail why you believe the denial of requested information was unwarranted.
- NSA will endeavor to respond within 20 working days of receiving your appeal, absent any unusual circumstances.

Sincerely,

CS Blachet for

JOHN R. CHAPMAN
Chief, FOIA/PA Office
NSA Initial Denial Authority