

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

_____	)	
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Civil Action No. 20-cv-3783
	)	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	
_____	)	

**JOINT STATUS REPORT**

Pursuant to the Minute Order entered by this Court on February 9, 2021, counsel for Plaintiff American Oversight and Defendant Department of Justice (“DOJ”) conferred and submit the following report on the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) requests at issue in this case:

1. American Oversight submitted four FOIA requests. It submitted the first two requests to both the DOJ’s Office of Information Policy (“OIP”) and the Executive Office of United States Attorneys (“EOUSA”). *See* Complaint, ECF No. 1, ¶¶ 7, 12. It submitted the third and fourth requests to EOUSA. *Id.* ¶¶ 16, 19
2. OIP administratively aggregated the two requests submitted to it under the single tracking number FOIA 2020-00226. OIP initiated a search for records responsive to the two requests directed to it and that search located 8,851 potentially responsive items. OIP anticipates it will be able to complete its initial responsiveness and deduplication review before April 1, 2021. At which point OIP will be in a position to meet and confer with Plaintiff, provide an update on its processing of the search results, and propose a processing schedule for the materials found to be responsive.

3. As explained in its Complaint, American Oversight withdrew the first request to EOUSA based on EOUSA's representation that it planned to refer any responsive records to OIP for processing. *Id.* ¶ 10. On January 22, 2021, EOUSA responded to the fourth request by stating it had no responsive records. With respect to the two pending requests to EOUSA (EOUSA 2020-001606 and EOUSA 2020-001607), EOUSA has completed one search for both requests and located a total of approximately 1,400 pages of potentially responsive documents. At this time EOUSA does not know how many pages, from the 1,400 pages of potentially responsive documents, correlate to each request. EOUSA anticipates reviewing approximately 250 pages of the potentially responsive documents a month starting in March and anticipates making its first interim response by April 1, 2021.

4. The parties propose to file their next joint status report on April 1, 2021.

February 22, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN M. BOYNTON  
Acting Assistant Attorney General

MARCIA BERMAN  
Assistant Branch Director

s/Marcia K. Sowles  
MARCIA K. SOWLES  
DC Bar No. 369455  
Senior Trial Counsel  
United States Department of Justice  
Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch  
1100 L Street N.W. Room 11028  
Washington, D.C. 20530  
Tel.: (202) 514- 4960  
Fax: (202) 616- 8470  
E-mail: marcia.sowles@usdoj.gov

Attorneys for Defendant

/s/ Daniel A. McGrath  
DANIEL A. MCGRATH

D.C. Bar No. 1531723  
American Oversight  
1030 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW, B255  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Tel: (202) 897-4213  
E-mail: [daniel.mcgrath@americanoversight.org](mailto:daniel.mcgrath@americanoversight.org)

Attorney for Plaintiff