



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Sixth Floor
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

May 6, 2025

Paul Mitchell
supremelawfirm@gmail.com

Re: FOIA-2025-03950

Dear Paul Mitchell:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated March 26, 2025, and received in this Office on April 10, 2025, seeking a copy of presidential commission of Attorney General Merrick Garland.

The records you seek require a search in and/or consultation with another Office, and so your request falls within “unusual circumstances.” See 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii) (2018). Because of these unusual circumstances, we need to extend the time limit to respond to your request beyond the ten additional days provided by the statute. For your information, we use multiple tracks to process requests, but within those tracks we work in an agile manner, and the time needed to complete our work on your request will necessarily depend on a variety of factors, including the complexity of our records search, the volume and complexity of any material located, and the order of receipt of your request. At this time we have assigned your request to the complex track.

Please be advised that the records search options available are dynamic and can be adjusted according to the types of records you are seeking. In general, there are five categories of records search options available to you:

1	Official Correspondence	This category includes final, signed communications, memoranda, policies, and guidelines.
2	Emails and Attachments	This category includes emails sent or received by Department officials and records attached thereto.
3	Calendars	This category includes the electronic calendar of Department officials.
4	Standalone Documents	This category includes both electronic computer records and non-electronic (i.e. paper) records of Department officials to the extent that such records were not attached to an email ¹ .
5	Classified Records	This category includes both electronic and non-electronic (i.e. paper) classified records maintained by Department officials.

The time required to complete our records search will vary significantly depending on the types of records that need to be searched in order to fulfill your request. Furthermore, there

¹ This category does not include Official Correspondence (i.e. category 1 records).

are distinct and significant differences between the search time required to complete certain categories of records searches. For example, a records search focused on category 1 records (Official Correspondence) requires the least amount of time to complete. A records search seeking records from categories 2 and/or 3 requires significantly more time than that of category 1. Whereas a search seeking records from categories 4 and/or 5 is the most time-consuming search option and requires substantially more time to complete than a search focused on records of categories 2 and/or 3.

Additional factors, including the timeframe of your request and the number of Department officials who need to be searched in order to fulfill your request, can make a substantial difference in the time it takes to complete our records search. Generally speaking, requests seeking records prior to January 20, 2017, will require additional search time, and the more Department officials that are subject to the records search, the longer it will take to complete.

At this time and in an effort to facilitate our response to your request, we are focusing our records search on official correspondence (i.e. category 1) that may be responsive to your request. If you are interested in either adding additional categories of records to your search or focusing your search on records other than category 1, please notify this Office as soon as possible. You may also agree to an alternative formulation of your request, including a different scope or date range. Please include the administrative tracking number associated with this request in all your correspondence.

Any decision with regard to the application of fees or any request for a fee waiver will be made only after we determine whether fees will be implicated for this request.

We regret the necessity of this delay, but we assure you that your request will be processed as soon as possible. If you have any questions or wish to discuss the processing of your request, you may contact this Office by telephone at the above number, by e-mail at doj.oip.foia@usdoj.gov, or you may write to the Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Sixth Floor, 441 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001. Lastly, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison, Valeree Villanueva, at the telephone number listed above to discuss any aspect of your request.

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448.

Sincerely,
Initial Request Staff
Office of Information Policy
U.S. Department of Justice