

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

March 30, 2010

[Redacted]

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Dear [Redacted]

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On 24 March 2010 we received your 17 March 2010 letter requesting information regarding [Redacted]

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The access provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974 generally permit individuals to request and obtain information about them that federal agencies maintain in Privacy Act "systems of records." In order to permit individuals to obtain information about them that federal agencies may maintain in records systems other than Privacy Act "systems of records," agencies generally process these access requests under both the Privacy Act and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). For the reasons below, however, we regret to inform you that we cannot accept your request under either the Privacy Act or under the FOIA.

As the Agency explains to applicants for employment, information pertaining to how the CIA hires individuals and its clearance criteria are intelligence methods. The access provisions of the Privacy Act do not apply to CIA information and systems of records "consisting of, pertaining to, or that would otherwise reveal intelligence methods" or to polygraph records. See 5 U.S.C. § 552a (j)(1); 32 C.F.R. 1901.62. Because the Privacy Act's access provisions do not apply to the information you seek, we cannot accept your request under the Privacy Act.

The only CIA records systems where we would reasonably expect to locate information responsive to your request are Privacy Act "systems of records" covered by this Privacy Act exemption. There are no other CIA records systems where we would reasonably expect to find responsive information. Therefore, we cannot accept or process your request under the FOIA because it would impose an unreasonably burdensome search requirement on the Agency, in light of the way in which CIA currently configures its records systems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delores M. Nelson".

Delores M. Nelson  
Information and Privacy Coordinator

IMS/IRRG/PIPD  25 MARCH 10

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