



BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OF THE
FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20551

ADDRESS OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE
TO THE BOARD

September 7, 2023

Ms. Eleanor Eagan
The Revolving Door Project
1611 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Re: *Freedom of Information Act Request No. FOIA-2023-00336*

Dear Ms. Eagan:

This is in response to your request to the United States Office of Government Ethics (“OGE”) dated December 10, 2021, and clarified on February 11, 2022, which was referred to and received by the Board’s Information Disclosure Section on March 13, 2023. Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552, your clarified request to the OGE sought:

All communications from February 15, 2020 to December 10, 2021 between employees of the Federal Reserve’s Legal Division and employees of the Office of Government Ethics, excluding: routine communications relating to the generation or substantive review of nominee/new entrant, annual, and termination (but not transaction) Financial Disclosure reports; records relating to training materials; communications sent to the Federal Reserve as part of a mass communication to all or most agency ethics offices; records relating to OGE program inspections and reviews; and materials related to OGE presentations/panel discussions.

During the search for responsive records, the OGE located 25 pages of information that originated with the Board and referred these pages to the Board for disposition. After reviewing the documents, I have determined that six of the referred pages are responsive to your request;¹ however, these responsive documents consist

¹ As you are aware, you submitted a substantially similar FOIA request to the Board on December 10, 2021 (FOIA-2022-00192). In responding to your request in a letter dated August 23, 2022, the Deputy Secretary of the Board informed you that because “[y]our request advise[d] that you [were] interested in information concerning ‘Federal Reserve leadership’s handling of and representations’ about ethics matters that were the subject of news reports during the

entirely of predecisional and deliberative information.² This information is subject to withholding and will be withheld from you pursuant to Exemption 5 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5). I have also determined that the information should be withheld because it is reasonably foreseeable that disclosure would harm an interest protected by an exemption described in subsection (b) of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). The responsive documents have been reviewed under the requirements of subsection (b) of the FOIA, but no reasonably segregable nonexempt information was found. Accordingly, approximately six pages will be withheld from you in full.

Your request, therefore, is denied in full for the reason stated above. If you believe you have a legal right to the information that is being withheld, you may appeal this determination by writing to Office of the Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Attn: FOIA Appeals, 2001 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20551; by facsimile to 202-872-7565; or electronically to FOIA-Appeals@frb.gov or <https://foia.federalreserve.gov/app/Home.aspx>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of the response to your request.³

Very truly yours,



Erin M. Cayce
Assistant Secretary of the Board

timeframe of your request,” Board staff interpreted your request as seeking email communications on those topics. Accordingly, as your request to the OGE is substantively similar to FOIA-2022-00192, Board staff have used the same interpretation in processing the records referred by the OGE to the Board.

² These six pages were also found to be responsive to FOIA-2022-00192 and were withheld from you in full under exemption 5 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5), for the reason stated above.

³ If you have any questions regarding the processing of your request, you may contact the Board’s FOIA Public Liaison, Ms. Candace Ambrose, at 202-452-3684 for assistance. Additionally, as an alternative to an administrative appeal, 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, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770 or toll free at 1-877-684-6448.