



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Appeal No. 2014-073

April 16, 2015

Rich Lord
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
34 Boulevard of the Allies
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Dear Mr. Lord:

This responds to the March 5, 2014, Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") appeal ("appeal") (**No. 2014-073**) that you filed with the Department of the Interior ("Department"). Your appeal concerns your January 28, 2014, FOIA request to the Office of Inspector General ("OIG") that sought four categories of budgetary documents pertaining to its use of funds for confidential human sources and informants, cooperators, whistleblowers, and other non-employees who may receive payment for evidence, information, or other services in criminal investigations. You filed the appeal to challenge the OIG's decision to "neither admit nor deny the existence" of documents that are responsive to Items 1 – 3 of your FOIA request and its determination that if any responsive documents did exist, they would be protected from disclosure by FOIA exemption (7)(D).¹

In connection with the appeal, the OIG advised the Department that it no longer wishes to rely on its previous response to your FOIA request. Therefore, to resolve the appeal, **by copy of this letter, the Department will remand this matter to the OIG for it to:**

- **Respond to the FOIA request anew.**
- **Correspond directly with the Appellant regarding the remand within 5 workdays from the date of this letter** (with a copy of the letter to this Office).

This completes the Department's response to your appeal. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call me at (202) 208-5339.

Sincerely,

Darrell R. Strayhorn
FOIA Appeals Officer
Department of the Interior

cc: Kevin Krebs, FOIA Officer, OIG (**FOR ACTION**)

¹ Exemption (7)(D) protects "records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes [which] could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source..." 5 U.S.C. 552 (b)(7)(D).