



April 24, 2015

Ginger McCall
Electronic Privacy Information Center
1716 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20009

Re: **2015-STFO-051**

Dear Ms. McCall:

This acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) dated April 14, 2015, and to your request for a waiver of all assessable FOIA fees. Your request was received in this office on April 17, 2015. You requested documents related to the Violent Intent Modeling and Simulation program listed in a contract document. Specifically, you requested the following:

- 1) Workshop agenda, list of invitees, project management plan, literature reviews, workshop notes and final report ;
- 2) Workshop agenda, list of invitees, project, management plan, literature reviews;
- 3) workshop notes, and final reports for 2 workshops;
- 4) Research plan, research strategy, operational level implementation plan, report and briefing;
- 5) Research plan;
- 6) Routine reports and point papers;
- 7) Evaluation and assessment of data sources for VIMS, criteria based modeling research brief, predictive modeling research brief, group violence SME panel report, and year and report;
- 8) Preliminary assessment of known data sets, summarized list of the data sets that were likely to provide the most value to VIMS, privacy considerations pertaining to the use of data characterizing US groups and individuals;
- 9) Assessment of available data sources, documents identifying promising new variables, database improvement recommendations, best data sets to be used and new data sets to be created in subsequent phases of VIMS; and
- 10) Reports for this project

Due to the increasing number of FOIA requests received by this office, we may encounter some delay in processing your request. Per Section 5.5(a) of the DHS FOIA regulations, 6 C.F.R. Part 5, the Department processes FOIA requests according to their order of receipt. Although DHS's goal is to respond within 20 business days of receipt of your request, the FOIA does permit a 10-day extension of this time period. As your request seeks numerous documents that will necessitate a thorough and wide-ranging search, DHS will invoke a 10-day extension for your request, as allowed by Title 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B). If you care to narrow the scope of your request, please contact our office. We will make every effort to comply with your request in a timely manner.

As it relates to your fee waiver request, I have reviewed your letter thoroughly and have determined that you have not presented a convincing argument that the Electronic Privacy Information Center is entitled to a blanket waiver of fees.

The DHS FOIA Regulations, 6 CFR § 5.11(k)(2), set forth six factors to examine in determining whether the applicable legal standard for a fee waiver has been met. We will consider these factors in our evaluation of your request for a fee waiver:

- (1) Whether the subject of the requested records concerns "the operations or activities of the government;"
- (2) Whether the disclosure is "likely to contribute" to an understanding of government operations or activities;
- (3) Whether disclosure of the requested information will contribute to the understanding of the public at large, as opposed to the individual understanding of the requestor or a narrow segment of interested persons;
- (4) Whether the contribution to public understanding of government operations or activities will be "significant;"
- (5) Whether the requester has a commercial interest that would be furthered by the requested disclosure; and
- (6) Whether the magnitude of any identified commercial interest to the requestor is sufficiently large in comparison with the public interest in disclosure, that disclosure is primarily in the commercial interest of the requestor.

As a requester, you bear the burden under the FOIA of showing that the fee waiver requirements have been met. Based on my review of your April 17, 2015 letter and for the reasons stated herein, I have determined that your fee waiver request is deficient because your request fails to meet factors 3 and 4 listed above. Since your request for a fee waiver has failed to satisfy each of the required factors, I am denying your fee waiver request.

Provisions of the Act allow us to recover part of the cost of complying with your request. We shall charge you for records in accordance with the DHS Interim FOIA regulations as they apply to media requestors. As a media requestor you will be charged 10-cents a page for duplication, although the first 100 pages are free. We will construe the submission of your request as an agreement to pay up to \$25.00. You will be contacted before any further fees are accrued.

You have the right to appeal the determination to deny your fee waiver request. Should you wish to do so, you must **send your appeal within 60 days of the date of this letter** to: Associate General Counsel (General Law), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Mail Stop 0655

Washington, DC 20528, following the procedures outlined in Subpart A, Section 5.9, of the DHS Regulations. Your envelope and letter should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." The implementing Department regulations establish the criteria under which the FOIA is administered. Copies of the FOIA and regulations are available at www.DHS.gov.

Your request has been assigned reference number **2015-STFO-051**. Please refer to this identifier in any future correspondence and to check the status of your request at <http://www.dhs.gov/foia-status>. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this matter, please feel free to contact this office at stfoia@hq.dhs.gov or (202) 254-6342.

Sincerely,



Katrina Hagan
FOIA Officer