



U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL
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November 6, 2023

Ms. Tiffany Hollis
via email: thollis@humanrightsdefensecenter.org

Re: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Appeal #AP-2024-001

Dear Ms. Hollis:

This responds to your October 4, 2023, appeal of the September 28, 2023, determination by the FOIA Unit of the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) on your FOIA Request #23-118 seeking a letter you believe OSC's Disclosure Unit sent to the U.S. Department of Justice concerning "allegations of asbestos and mold contamination at the Federal Correctional Institution for women in Dublin, California."

Your appeal challenges the FOIA Unit's response neither confirming nor denying whether responsive records exist. OSC can now confirm that the letter exists.

The OSC case which the letter is part of is still open. Accordingly, pursuant to FOIA Exemption 7a, OSC will not release the record until OSC closes the case. Once OSC closes the case, the letter you seek, as well as other documents in the case, will be available to the public on OSC's website, osc.gov. See 5 U.S.C. § 1213. We hope this will happen by the end of this year.

You may seek judicial review of this decision by filing a complaint in an appropriate United States district court. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B). If you have any questions regarding this request, please feel free to contact Barbara Wheeler Jones, OSC's Chief FOIA Officer and Acting FOIA Public Liaison, at bwheeler@osc.gov or (202) 804-7000. Please reference the above tracking number when you call or write.¹

Sincerely,
Susan K. Ullman
Susan K. Ullman
General Counsel

¹ 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. You can reach OGIS at: 8601 Adelphi Road, Room 2510, College Park, MD 20740-6001; ogis@nara.gov, 202-741-5770, 1-877-684-6448 (Toll Free), 202-741-5769 (Fax).