

MuckRock News
DEPT MR 29735
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516
29735-55135952@requests.muckrock.com

U.S. Department of State
FOIA Office
U. S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20522-8100

July 12, 2018

This is a follow up to request number F-2016-14639:

Heikki Olavi
Dept. MR29735
411A Highland Ave.
Somerville, MA 02144

Chairman
Appeals Review Panel
c/o Information and Privacy Coordinator/Appeals Officer
U.S. Department of State
A/GIS/IPS/PP, SA-2Washington
DC 20522-8100

FOIA APPEAL FOR F-2016-14639

5/23/2018

Dear Sir/Madame,

This is an appeal under the Freedom of Information Act.

Kindly note that I wish to withdraw my earlier appeal dated 5/15/2018.

I sent a FOIA request to Department of State 11/01/2016 regarding English Teaching Assistant Program of United States Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission. My request was acknowledged 11/04/2016 and given Case Control Number F-2016-14639.

I wish to thank the agency for the documents I received with a cover letter dated 4-02-2018 postmarked 5/08/2018. The letter is signed by Eric F. Stein who states that Foreign Service Institute located responsive documents and that these documents were released in full.

The material I received consists of 84 pages but unfortunately does in my opinion not contain all responsive documents. Apparently the agency has not provided anything for the following parts of my request:

1)The English Teaching Assistant program plan for Sri Lanka approved by the Bureau of Educational and

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Cultural Affairs. (Section 111.1 of the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board policies)

3) A copy of all the final reports submitted by the English Training Assistants/grantees in Sri Lanka starting from year 2010. (Section 132.6 of the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board policies)

5) Copies of the summary minutes of the meetings of the United States Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission for year 2015. (Section 132.2 of the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board policies)

The agency has disclosed a document called "Welcome to Sri Lanka- A Handbook for US Fulbright Grantees" that I never requested.

I wish to administratively appeal what I consider denial of access to records that are responsive to my request. If there has been a problem locating responsive documents I suggest that the agency approaches, for instance, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board and United States Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission.

Kindly instruct the agency to locate all documents that are responsive to my request or solve the dispute in another way.

The documents can be mailed to:

Heikki Olavi
Dept. MR29735
411A Highland Ave.
Somerville, MA 02144

I expect a response within 20 days as required by law.

Thanking you in advance.

Heikki Olavi

Filed via MuckRock.com
E-mail (Preferred): 29735-55135952@requests.muckrock.com

For mailed responses, please address (see note):

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On June 18, 2018:
Dear Mr. Olavi,

This is in reference to your email dated June 17, 2018 regarding the appeal of FOIA case control number F-2016-14639. As you state below, your email contains your appeal dated May 23, 2018. Please note that we have forwarded your email to the Appeals Officer for appropriate action.

If you have any questions, please contact the FOIA Requester Service Center (FRSC) at (202) 261-8484, or fax us at (202) 261-8579 or send an e-mail to foiastatus@state.gov.

Sincerely,

U.S. Department of State

FOIA Requester Service Center

(202) 261-8484

foiastatus@state.gov<<mailto:foiastatus@state.gov>>

On June 17, 2018:
Katrina Wood,

Thank you for your reply. Unfortunately the dates of correspondence you mention in your reply appear incorrect.

I sent my first appeal 05/15/2018 (not 05/13/2018 as you mention) and it was later withdrawn because the material arrived. Kindly ignore the first Appeal.

My second appeal was dated 05/23/2018 and sent 05/23/2018. Since there was no acknowledgment it was faxed again 06/05/2018.

From your kind reply I deduct that the FOIA Requester Service Center and the Appeals Officer have not received the Appeal dated 05/23/2018. The Appeal was sent twice to the Appeals Officer who apparently received only a letter to withdraw the first Appeal.

Please find the above mentioned Appeal below and acknowledge the fact that it has arrived.

Thank you in advance.

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Thanking you in advance.

Heikki Olavi

On June 14, 2018:

Ms. Russell,

The Appeals Officer advised the Office of Information Programs Service that she received a letter dated May 18, 2018 for the withdrawal of the May 13, 2018 Appeal. The Appeal Officer have not received the May 13, 2018 Appeal letter yet. I hope this information was helpful.

Regards,

Katrina Wood

FOIA Requester Service Center

On June 5, 2018:

Hello,

The FOIA appeal copied below was sent to your office on May 23, 2018 and has not received an acknowledgement. Could you please confirm that it was received and is being processed?

Thank you.

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On May 23, 2018:
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I expect a response within 20 days as required by law.

Thanking you in advance.

Heikki Olavi

On Nov. 1, 2016:
To Whom It May Concern:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. I hereby request the following records:

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Please send me the following documents on Fulbright English Teaching assistants/grantees and the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant program in Sri Lanka:

- 1) The English Teaching Assistant program plan for Sri Lanka approved by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. (Section 111.1 of the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board policies)
- 2) The guidelines established by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs for English Teaching Assistant programs. (Section 111.1 of the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board policies)
- 3) A copy of all the final reports submitted by the English Training Assistants/grantees in Sri Lanka starting from year 2010. (Section 132.6 of the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board policies)
- 4) A copy of the annual report from the United States Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission for year 2015. (Section 132.2 of the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board policies)
- 5) Copies of the summary minutes of the meetings of the United States Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission for year 2015. (Section 132.2 of the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board policies)

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Heikki Olavi

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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

APR 02 2018

Case Number: F-2016-14639

Heikki Olavi
MuckRock
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Dear Ms. Olavi:

This is the initial agency decision on your November 01, 2016, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, 5 U.S.C. § 552, to the Department of State (DOS), for documents on Fulbright English Teaching assistants/grantees and the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant program in Sri Lanka. The DOS, Office of Information Programs and Services received your FOIA request on the same date and assigned it the tracking number at the top of this letter. Please include the tracking number in all future communications concerning this FOIA request.

The Foreign Service Institute conducted a search and located the enclosed records that are responsive to your request. After carefully reviewing these documents, we determined that they are all appropriate for release in full.

For further assistance or to discuss any aspect of your request, you may contact our FOIA Requester Service Center or our FOIA Public Liaison via email at FOIAstatus@state.gov or telephone at (202) 261-8484.

Sincerely,


Eric F. Stein, Director
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosure(s):
As stated