



EOIR Staff emails

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[Matthew Hoppock](#) filed this request with the [Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review of the United States of America](#).

Tracking #	2020-21347
Submitted	Feb. 18, 2020
Due	June 16, 2020
Est. Completion	None Edit

STATUS [Edit](#)

Awaiting Response

EMBARGO [Edit](#)

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13 Communications	10 Files	0 Notes	Sharing
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From: Matthew Hoppock	02/18/2020	
Subject: Freedom of Information Act Request: EOIR Staff emails	Email	



To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, I hereby request the following records:

All Email messages between robert.barry@eoir.usdoj.gov and vicki.butler@eoir.usdoj.gov between 9/13/19 and 10/30/19.

I am asking for all emails messages in the date range without a keyword search. I don't expect there will be many. I would be happy to discuss the scope of this request or any other issues that may come up if you would like.

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,

Matthew Hoppock

From: Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review

02/24/2020

Subject: None

Mail

An acknowledgement letter, stating the request is being processed.



Acknowledgement Letter

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From: Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review

03/18/2020



Subject: FW: FOIA 2020-21347: EOIR Staff emails

Email

Mathew, for us to do a "reasonable search" and do the subsequent privacy vs. public interest analysis, please provide the topical subject matter for search. Wr/JRS



~WRD000

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From: Matthew Hoppock

03/19/2020

Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Act Request #2020-21347

Email

I do not wish to limit the search by keyword. What I am looking for occurred during that date range, but I cannot predict if a specific keyword is going to show up in each of the e-mail messages about this incident. Limiting the search by keyword will likely exclude certain responsive messages.

However, I don't expect there to be more than 20 or so e-mail messages between these two individual during that date range. If you run a search and it turns out there are hundreds, please let me know. I would be glad to work with you to limit the search if there are too many. Please let me know once the search has been run if that is an issue.

Thank you,

Matthew Hoppock

From: Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review

03/31/2020

Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Act Request #2020-21347

Email

Matthew,

Keywords are helpful but not determinative of the search. I just need to know what "incident" you are seeking documentation of. I cannot craft a "reasonable search" for documents without first knowing specifically what records you seek. DOJ regulations state that, "[t]o the extent possible, requesters should include specific information that may assist a component in identifying the requested records, such as the date, title or name, author, recipient, subject matter of the record, case number, file designation, or reference number" and also that "requesters should include as much detail as possible about the specific records or the types of records that they are seeking." 28 C.F.R. § 16.3(b).

If there are only a few potentially responsive documents, I would like to get this done as I have a number of large projects to work on, including remands for the JLC Forum.

Wr/JRS



image001

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From: Matthew Hoppock

06/29/2020

Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Act Request #2020-21347

Email

I can explain what I'm looking for. I am trying to understand how the agency handled the ninth circuit's remand of MARIA TORRES VALDIVIA V. WILLIAM BARR, No. 15-73499 (9th Cir. 2019). I understand if the



aware that after the ninth's decision was issued, there was a request for the file to be sent to the EOIR Director's office from the LA immigration court. I am trying to obtain the email messages between the persons most likely involved to figure out why that happened and what the agency is doing to comply with the remand order. That's why I am seeking the email messages between those two people in that date range. I can't guarantee their correspondence will mention the person by name or there a number, so searching by keywords might not be sufficient. But, given how rarely those two individuals would normally correspond by email, I doubt there will be any messages in that date range that don't relate to this specific case. Thank you.

Matthew Hoppock

From: Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review

06/29/2020



Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Act Request #2020-21347

Email

Thank you Matthew, I can search for that. Wr/JRS



~WRD000

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From: Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review

06/30/2020



Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Act Request #2020-21347

Email

Matthew, thank you we were able to find the e-mails. Since I just have to redact the one responsive string I should have to you this week. Wr/JRS



~WRD000

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From: Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review

07/01/2020



Subject: RE: FOIA 2020-21347: EOIR Staff emails

Email

Matthew, please see FOIA response attached.

Wr/

Joseph R. Schaaf

Supervisory Attorney-Advisor

Executive Office for Immigration Review



image001

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2020-21347-MH-b6

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From: Matthew Hoppock

07/01/2020



Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Act Request #2020-21347

Email

Joseph,

Were there other email messages between the two during this time period other than what has been provided?

Also, I am confused by the layout. At the bottom of Page 1 there is the beginning of an email. Is Page 2 a continuation of that email? the text and font change on page 2 which makes it seem like that might be from a different set of emails.

Also, has EOIR withheld any email messages? The determination letter mentions withholdings under B6, but I can't tell if that's just in reference to the redactions or if there are additional records that were withheld.

Thank you.

Matthew Hoppock

From: Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review

07/01/2020



Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Act Request #2020-21347

Email

Matthew, this is the full string between Robert Barry and Vicki Butler on that topic. It is one continuous string. We did not withhold any e-mails. Wr/JRS



~WRD000

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From: Matthew Hoppock

07/01/2020



Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Act Request #2020-21347

Email

Thanks for that. Were there other email messages between the two during this time period other than what has been provided?



From: Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review

07/01/2020

Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Act Request #2020-21347

Email

Matthew, the search was tailored to e-mails between Staff Assistant Vicki Butler and Court Administrator Robert Barry (or anyone at LOS for that matter) regarding Valdivia vs. Barr between 9/13/2019 and 10/30/2019. What we found seems to be an exact match. Wr/JRS



~WRD000

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