



NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY  
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-6000

FOIA Case: 115974  
20 March 2023

MUCKROCK NEWS  
DEPT MR 141807  
263 HUNTINGTON AVE  
BOSTON MA 02115

Dear Jordan:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated 3 March 2023, in which you seek information related to the use of Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning in intelligence gathering. Your letter was received on 16 March 2023, and assigned Case Number 115974. Please refer to this case number when contacting us about your request. Because there are no assessable fees for this request, we did not address your fee category. Your request has been processed under the provisions of the FOIA.

This Agency has determined that the fact of the existence or non-existence of the materials you request is a currently and properly classified matter in accordance with Executive Order 13526, as set forth in Subparagraph (c) of Section 1.4. Thus, your request is denied pursuant to the first exemption of the FOIA which provides that the FOIA does not apply to matters that are specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive Order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign relations and are, in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive Order.

In addition, this Agency is authorized by various statutes to protect certain information concerning its activities. The third exemption of the FOIA provides for the withholding of information specifically protected from disclosure by statute. Thus, your request is also denied because the fact of the existence or non-existence of the information is exempted from disclosure pursuant to the third exemption. The specific statutes applicable in this case are Title 18 U.S. Code 798; Title 50 U.S. Code 3024(i); and Section 6, Public Law 86-36 (50 U.S. Code 3605).

Please be advised that the Agency reasonably foresees that disclosure of the existence or non-existence of the requested information would be harmful to an interest that is protected by the identified exemptions.

Although we cannot confirm or deny the existence of the records you seek, the following general information about intelligence may be useful to you: NSA collects and provides intelligence derived from foreign communications to policymakers, military commanders, and law enforcement officials. We do this to help these individuals protect the security of the United States, its allies, and their citizens from threats such as terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, foreign espionage, international organized crime, and other hostile activities. What we are authorized to do, and how we do it, is described in Executive Order 12333. Information about how NSA conducts signals intelligence activities is available on the websites of NSA ([www.nsa.gov](http://www.nsa.gov)) and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence ([www.dni.gov](http://www.dni.gov)).

You may appeal this decision. If you decide to appeal, you should do so in the manner outlined below. NSA will endeavor to respond within 20 working days of receiving any appeal, absent any unusual circumstances.

- The appeal must be sent via U.S. postal mail, fax or electronic delivery (e-mail) and addressed to:

NSA FOIA/PA Appeal Authority (P132)  
National Security Agency  
9800 Savage Road STE 6932  
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-6932

The facsimile number is 443-479-3612.

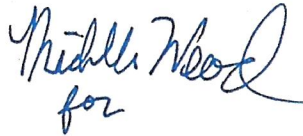
The appropriate email address to submit an appeal is  
[FOIA\\_PA\\_Appeals@nsa.gov](mailto:FOIA_PA_Appeals@nsa.gov).

- It must be postmarked or delivered electronically no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. Decisions appealed after 90 days will not be addressed.
- Please include the case number provided above.
- Please describe with sufficient detail why you believe the denial of requested information was unwarranted.

You may also contact our FOIA Public Liaison at [foialo@nsa.gov](mailto:foialo@nsa.gov) for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. 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. The contact information for OGIS is as follows:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Rd - OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740  
[ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov) / 877-684-6448 / (Fax) 202-741-5769

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paula A. Gill" with a stylized flourish at the end. Below the signature, the word "for" is written in a smaller, simpler script.

PAULA A. GILL  
Chief, FOIA/PA Division  
NSA Initial Denial Authority