

**From:** [Phil Rutherford](#)  
**To:** ["O'donnell, Jordan \(CONTR\)"; "IGHOTLINE"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FOIA Request HQ-2024-01160-F  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2024 11:36:33 AM

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Thank you, Jordan,

So let me get this right.

DOE OIG refuses to provide records of their 1-year investigation of my complaint, even to tell me the date of closure and the reason why I was not notified.

OIG tells me to submit a FOIA request which I dutifully do. Now you tell me that the DOE FOIA Office has bounced it back to DOE OIG to implement. And you cannot address my questions below even a simple estimate of the completion date.

Do I have that right? Federal bureaucracy at its best!

Perhaps the IGHOTLine can chime in?

I will not hold my breath.

Phil

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**From:** O'donnell, Jordan (CONTR) <jordan.o'donnell@hq.doe.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 26, 2024 8:37 AM  
**To:** Phil Rutherford <email@philrutherford.com>  
**Cc:** IGHOTLINE <ighotline@hq.doe.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FOIA Request HQ-2024-01160-F

Good morning Phil,

Our FOIA process for OIG related requests is to assign the requests to OIG as they handle their own requests. Therefore unfortunately I cannot provide a timeline as the request is not in my direct control. My apologies, I wish I could be more helpful.

Thank you,  
Jordan O'Donnell  
Senior FOIA Analyst – Team Lead (Contractor)  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Public Information, MA-46  
[jordan.o'donnell@hq.doe.gov](mailto:jordan.o'donnell@hq.doe.gov)

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**From:** Phil Rutherford <[email@philrutherford.com](mailto:email@philrutherford.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 7:06 PM  
**To:** O'donnell, Jordan (CONTR) <jordan.o'donnell@hq.doe.gov>

**Cc:** IGHOTLINE <[ighotline@hq.doe.gov](mailto:ighotline@hq.doe.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FOIA Request HQ-2024-01160-F

Good afternoon Ms./Mr. O'Donnell,

I am writing to inquire as to the estimated time that my FOIA request, HQ-2024-01160-F, might be concluded. I realize that it is less than two weeks since the request was submitted. However, given that the original complaint (23-0160-C) was submitted to the DOE OIG over a year ago, I am curious to know how much longer I will have to wait for the results of the complaint investigation.

In addition, I have asked the DOE OIG, three times, for the date of closure of the investigation and the reason why I, the complainant, was not notified of its closure at the time of closure. The DOE OIG refused to answer those two simple questions citing unspecified "Privacy Act Restrictions." The Privacy Act provides protection to individuals by ensuring that personal information collected by Federal agencies is limited to that which is legally authorized and necessary and is maintained in a manner which precludes unwarranted intrusions upon individual privacy. Please explain why answers to these two questions would violate the Privacy Act?

I am hoping that the DOE FOIA Office will prove to be more forthcoming than the DOE OIG. Perhaps you could provide the answers to those two simple questions?

Thank you in anticipation.

Phil

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