



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 18, 2026

Request No.: F-2026-13033

Mr. Kevin Hopper  
University of North Texas  
22267 Stoney Ravine Drive  
New Caney, TX 77357  
*Sent via email: kevin.hopper1@gmail.com*

Dear Kevin Hopper:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request received by the U.S. Department of State, Information Access Programs Directorate on March 12, 2026. This Office assigned your request the subject reference number and placed it in the complex processing track where it will be processed as quickly as possible.

This Office will not be able to respond within the 20 days provided by the statute due to "unusual circumstances." In this instance, the unusual circumstances include the need to search for and collect requested records from other Department offices or Foreign Service posts.

**Fee Waiver Determination.** You requested a waiver for all fees associated with the processing of your request. Fees shall be waived or in rare cases; perhaps involving exceptional burden or expenditure of public resources in the context of a request that minimally satisfies the "public interest" requirement, it may be possible to give effect to the language of the statute providing for "a charge reduced below the fees" by granting a reduction rather than a complete waiver of fees, if the Department determines that disclosure is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester. Your request does not meet the public interest standard set forth in § 22 CFR 171.16(j)(2)(ii). Therefore, this Office denies your request for a fee waiver.

**Fee Category Determination.** The Department has determined that you fall within the “Educational Institution” fee category. Educational Institution requesters are not charged fees for search or review and receive the first 100 pages of duplication (or equivalent) free of charge per request. However, after the first 100 pages of duplication, OMB’s Uniform Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Fee Schedule and Guidelines allow agencies to recover the “reasonable direct cost of duplication” for all fee categories of FOIA requesters. (See Section 7(d) of the OMB Uniform Freedom of Information Act Fee Schedule and Guidelines.) The term “duplication” refers to “the process of making a copy of a document necessary to respond to a FOIA request.” (See Section 6(e) of the OMB Uniform Freedom of Information Act Fee Schedule and Guidelines.) The Department of State FOIA regulations, 22 CFR Part 171.16(b), define “direct costs” as “those expenses the Department incurs...duplicating...in response to a FOIA request. For example, direct costs include the salary of the employee performing the work (i.e., the basic rate of pay for the employee, plus 16 percent of that rate to cover benefits) and the cost of operating computers and other electronic equipment, such as photocopiers and scanners. The term does not include overhead expenses such as the costs of space and of heating or lighting of a facility.” (See 22 CFR 171.1(b))

If you have any questions regarding your request, would like to narrow the scope or arrange an alternative time frame to speed its processing, or would like an estimated date of completion, please contact Faye E., at [FOIA\\_Inquiry@state.gov](mailto:FOIA_Inquiry@state.gov) or our FOIA Public Liaison via email at [FOIAStatus@state.gov](mailto:FOIAStatus@state.gov) or telephone at (202) 261-8484.

If you are not satisfied with this determination, you may administratively appeal by writing to: Appeals Officer, Information Access Programs Directorate (A/SKS/IAP), U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20520; by fax to (202) 485-1718; or by email to [FOIAAppeals@state.gov](mailto:FOIAAppeals@state.gov). Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of this correspondence. Please include a copy of this correspondence with your written appeal and clearly state why you disagree with the determinations set forth in this response.

Additionally, if you are not satisfied with the Department’s determination in response to your request, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) 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 Road-OGIS, College Park,  
Maryland 20740-6001, email address: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone: (202) 741-5770;  
toll free number: 1-877-684-6448

Sincerely,

*Ennelle Debrosse*

Ennelle Debrosse  
Supervisory Government Information Specialist  
FOIA Case Processing Office  
Information Access Programs Directorate

Enclosures: As stated herein.