



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Sixth Floor
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

April 8, 2021

Brian Huddleston
704 Nickelville Lane
Wylie, TX 75098
brianhudd@gmail.com

Re: FOIA-2020-01319
20-cv-00447 (E.D. Tex.)
VRB:JMB:BPF

Dear Brian Huddleston:

This is an interim response to your FOIA request, dated and received in this Office on June 5, 2020, in which you requested records of the Special Counsel's Office (SCO) concerning Seth Rich, Aaron Rich, and the alleged hacking of servers associated with the Democratic National Committee.

With respect to the named individual, Aaron Rich, lacking his consent, official acknowledgment of an investigation of him, or an overriding public interest, even to acknowledge the existence of such records pertaining to this individual could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of his personal privacy. Accordingly, I have decided to refuse to confirm or deny the existence of responsive records pursuant to Exemptions 6 and 7(C) of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. §§ 552(b)(6) and (b)(7)(C).

With respect to the remainder of your FOIA request, please be advised that searches have been conducted within the SCO. At this time, I have determined that 32 pages containing records responsive to your request should be withheld in full pursuant to Exemption 5 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5). Exemption 5 pertains to certain inter- and intra-agency communications protected by civil discovery privileges.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2018). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact Andrea Parker of the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas, at 409-981-7938.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan Breyan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jonathan Breyan
Senior Supervisory Attorney
for
Vanessa R. Brinkmann
Senior Counsel