

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

AMERICA FIRST LEGAL
FOUNDATION,
611 Pennsylvania Ave., SE #231
Washington, D.C. 20003

Plaintiff,

v.

Civil Action No. 1:26-cv-562

U.S. CYBERSECURITY AND INFRA-
STRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY
Stop 0380, 245 Murray Lane,
Washington D.C. 20528

and

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
SECURITY
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE,
Washington, D.C. 20528

Defendants.

COMPLAINT

1. Plaintiff America First Legal Foundation (“AFL”) brings this action against the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to compel compliance with the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. The Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331. Additionally, it may grant declaratory relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201, *et seq.*

3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B) and 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e).

PARTIES

4. Plaintiff AFL is a nonprofit organization working to promote the rule of law in the United States, prevent executive overreach, ensure due process and equal protection for all Americans, and encourage public knowledge and understanding of the law and individual rights guaranteed under the United States Constitution and the laws of the United States. AFL's mission includes promoting government transparency and accountability by gathering official information, analyzing it, and disseminating it through reports, press releases, and/or other media, including social media platforms, all to educate the public.

5. Defendant, U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency ("CISA"), is an "agency" within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 552(f), with its offices located at Stop 0380, 245 Murray Lane, Washington, D.C. 20528, and has possession and control of the records AFL seeks.

6. Defendant, U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS"), is an "agency" within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 552(f), with its offices located at 2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE, Washington, D.C. 20528.

FACTS

7. On December 9, 2025, AFL filed a FOIA request with CISA seeking records related to the Biden Administration's Misinformation, Disinformation, and Malinformation ("MDM") policies. Exhibit 1.

8. On the same day, AFL filed a similar FOIA request with DHS. Exhibit 2.

9. On December 12, 2025, CISA acknowledged AFL's FOIA request, assigned it tracking number 2026-NPFO-00162, and denied AFL's request for expedited processing. Exhibit 3.

10. As of the date of filing, AFL has received no further communications from CISA concerning this request.

11. On December 11, 2025, DHS acknowledged AFL's FOIA request, assigned it tracking number 2026-HQFO-01237, and denied AFL's request for expedited processing. Exhibit 4.

12. As of the date of filing, AFL has received no further communications from DHS concerning this request.

CLAIM

Violation of FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552

13. AFL repeats and realleges paragraphs 1–12.

14. AFL properly requested records within the possession, custody, and control of the Defendants.

15. The Defendants have failed to produce the requested records within the statutory time limit.

16. Accordingly, AFL has exhausted its administrative remedies. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(c)(i).

17. Additionally, in each instance, AFL sufficiently demonstrated that expedited processing was appropriate by citing widespread media interest in these issues.

18. Yet, the Defendants failed to comply with FOIA and their own regulations by denying AFL's requests for expedited processing.

19. Accordingly, the Defendants have violated the FOIA.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, AFL respectfully requests this Court:

i. Declare that the records sought by these requests, as described in the foregoing, must be disclosed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552;

ii. Order the Defendants to conduct searches immediately for all records responsive to AFL's FOIA requests and demonstrate that they employed search methods reasonably likely to lead to the discovery of responsive records;

iii. Order the Defendants to produce by a date certain all non-exempt records responsive to AFL's FOIA requests;

iv. Award AFL attorney's fees and costs pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(E);
and

v. Grant AFL such other and further relief as this Court deems proper.

February 19, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Robert A. Crossin
Robert A. Crossin (DC Bar #90036740)

Trey Donathan (NC Bar #63878)*
AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION
611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231
Washington, DC 20003
Tel.: 202.596.9846
bobby.crossin@aflegal.org
trey.donathan@aflegal.org

* Motion *pro hac vice* forthcoming

Counsel for Plaintiff



December 9, 2025

VIA Secure Release Portal

Privacy Office, Mail Stop 0655
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. AVE SE
Washington, DC 20528-065

**Freedom of Information Act Request: NGO and European Commission
Coordination on Misinformation, Disinformation, and Malinformation**

Dear FOIA Officer:

America First Legal Foundation (“AFL”) is a national, nonprofit organization. AFL works to promote the rule of law in the United States, prevent executive overreach, ensure due process and equal protection for all Americans, and promote knowledge and understanding of the law and individual rights guaranteed under the Constitution and laws of the United States. AFL’s mission includes promoting government transparency and accountability by gathering official information, analyzing it, and disseminating it through reports, press releases, and/or other media, including social media platforms, all to educate the public.

I. Records Request

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, AFL hereby requests:

1. All records, including communications, mentioning the organizations listed below that include any of the terms “misinformation,” “disinformation,” “malinformation,” “MDM,” or “breaking containment.” This includes, but is not limited to all records including or sent to/from the email domains listed below:
 - a. European Commission (@ec.europa.eu)
 - b. Council on Foreign Relations (@cfr.org)
 - c. Integrity Institute (@integrityinstitute.org)
 - d. EU DisinfoLab (@disinfo.eu)
 - e. Atlantic Council/Digital Forensic Research Lab (“Atlantic Council,” “DFRLab”) (@atlanticcouncil.org)
 - f. Avaaz (@avaaz.org)
 - g. Counter Extremism Project (@counterextremism.com)
 - h. Dangerous Speech Project (@dangerousspeech.org)

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- i. The American Sunlight Project (@americansunlight.org)
 - j. European Digital Media Observatory (“EDMO”) (edmo@eui.eu)
 - k. Center for Countering Digital Hate (“CCDH”) (@counterhate.com)
 - l. Southern Poverty Law Center (“SPLC”) (@splcenter.org)
2. All communications with any of the groups mentioned in Part 1 of this request relating to the suppression of speech, including but not limited to records relating to content moderation, suppression of narratives, or the regulation (including fines or penalties) for social media sites like Twitter/X.
 3. All communications between CISA and any of the groups mentioned in Part 1 of this request.
 4. All records and communications between CISA and either the groups listed in Part 1 or with representatives of the European Commission relating to the European Commission’s financial penalties levied against “X,” or “X Corp,” between October 28, 2022, and January 20, 2025.

The time period for Parts 1–3 of this request is from January 20, 2021, through January 20, 2025.

II. Custodians

All officials at the GS-14 level and above (or equivalent) within the Office of the Director.

III. Fee Waiver

Per 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and 6 C.F.R. § 5.11(k), AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees associated with this request. AFL is a qualified non-commercial public education and news media requester. AFL has already demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through regular substantive analyses posted to its website. For example, its officials routinely appear on national television and use social media platforms to disseminate the information it has obtained about federal government activities. In this case, AFL will make the records and the agency’s responses publicly available for the benefit of citizens, scholars, and others. AFL’s analysis and publication of the requested records will enhance the public’s understanding of the agency’s policies and practices. As a nonprofit organization, AFL does not have a commercial purpose, and the release of the information requested is not in AFL’s financial interest. AFL has been granted fee waivers by agencies across the Federal government, including the Departments of State, Justice, Education, Energy, Interior, and Homeland Security.

IV. Expedited Processing

AFL requests expedited processing of this request. In support thereof, AFL certifies its compelling need for expedited processing under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E) and 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(e). AFL is a qualifying organization “primarily engaged in disseminating information,” and there exists “an urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity, if made by a person who is primarily engaged in disseminating information.” 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(e)(1)(ii).

This request seeks records that will shed light on the role of the United States government in the development or encouragement of policies to suppress or moderate speech across jurisdictions, including any communications or coordination with foreign regulators concerning enforcement actions directed at X.¹ Given ongoing, high-profile enforcement activity overseas and continuing public debate in the United States about government involvement in content moderation, prompt disclosure is necessary to inform Americans of their own government’s role in major actions affecting their ability to exercise their freedom of speech.

V. Conclusion

If you have any questions about how to construe this request for records or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to AFL, please do not hesitate to contact us at FOIA@aflegal.org. Finally, if AFL’s request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making that determination.

Sincerely,

/s/ Will Scolinos

America First Legal Foundation

¹ *Commission Fines X €120 Million Under the Digital Services Act*, EUR. COMM’N (Dec 4, 2025), <https://perma.cc/8EVQ-DGFS>.



December 9, 2025

VIA Secure Release

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Privacy Office
FOIA Officer
2707 Martin Luther King Ave SE
Washington, DC 20528-065

**Freedom of Information Act Request: NGO and European Commission
Coordination on Misinformation, Disinformation, and Malinformation**

Dear FOIA Officer:

America First Legal Foundation (“AFL”) is a national, nonprofit organization. AFL works to promote the rule of law in the United States, prevent executive overreach, ensure due process and equal protection for all Americans, and promote knowledge and understanding of the law and individual rights guaranteed under the Constitution and laws of the United States. AFL’s mission includes promoting government transparency and accountability by gathering official information, analyzing it, and disseminating it through reports, press releases, and/or other media, including social media platforms, all to educate the public.

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 - e. Atlantic Council/Digital Forensic Research Lab (“Atlantic Council,” “DFRLab”) (@atlanticcouncil.org)
 - f. Avaaz (@avaaz.org)
 - g. Counter Extremism Project (@counterextremism.com)

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- h. Dangerous Speech Project (@dangerousspeech.org)
 - i. The American Sunlight Project (@americansunlight.org)
 - j. European Digital Media Observatory (“EDMO”) (edmo@eui.eu)
 - k. Center for Countering Digital Hate (“CCDH”) (@counterhate.com)
 - l. Southern Poverty Law Center (“SPLC”) (@splcenter.org)
2. All communications with any of the groups mentioned in Part 1 of this request relating to the suppression of speech, including but not limited to records relating to content moderation, suppression of narratives, or the regulation (including fines or penalties) for social media sites like Twitter/X.
 3. All communications between the Department of Homeland Security and any of the groups mentioned in Part 1 of this request.
 4. All records and communications between the Department of Homeland Security and either the groups listed in Part 1 or with representatives of the European Commission relating to the European Commission’s financial penalties levied against “X,” or “X Corp,” between October 28, 2022, and January 20, 2025.

The time period for Parts 1–3 of this request is from January 20, 2021, through January 20, 2025.

II. Custodians

All officials at the GS-14 pay scale (or equivalent) and above in the following offices:

1. Office of the Secretary
2. Science and Technology Directorate
3. Office of Intelligence and Analysis
4. Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans

III. Fee Waiver

Per 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and 6 C.F.R. § 5.11(k), AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees associated with this request. AFL is a qualified non-commercial public education and news media requester. AFL has already demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through regular substantive analyses posted to its website. For example, its officials routinely appear on national television and use social media platforms to disseminate the information it has obtained about federal government activities. In this case, AFL will make the records and the agency’s responses publicly available for the benefit of citizens, scholars, and others. AFL’s analysis and publication of the requested records will enhance the public’s understanding of the agency’s policies and practices. As a nonprofit organization, AFL does not have a

commercial purpose, and the release of the information requested is not in AFL's financial interest. AFL has been granted fee waivers by agencies across the Federal government, including the Departments of State, Justice, Education, Energy, Interior, and Homeland Security.

IV. Expedited Processing

AFL requests expedited processing of this request. In support thereof, AFL certifies its compelling need for expedited processing under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E) and 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(e). AFL is a qualifying organization "primarily engaged in disseminating information," and there exists "an urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity." 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(e)(1)(ii).

This request seeks records that will shed light on the role of the United States government in the development or encouragement of policies to suppress or moderate speech across jurisdictions, including any communications or coordination with foreign regulators concerning enforcement actions directed at X.¹ Given ongoing, high-profile enforcement activity overseas and continuing public debate in the United States about government involvement in content moderation, prompt disclosure is necessary to inform Americans of their own government's role in major actions affecting their ability to exercise their freedom of speech.

V. Conclusion

If you have any questions about how to construe this request for records or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to AFL, please do not hesitate to contact us at FOIA@aflegal.org. Finally, if AFL's request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making that determination.

Sincerely,
/s/ Will Scolinos
America First Legal Foundation

¹ *Commission Fines X €120 Million Under the Digital Services Act*, EUR. COMM'N (Dec 4, 2025), <https://perma.cc/8EVQ-DGFS>.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency
Office of the Director

Washington, DC 20528



CISA
CYBER+INFRASTRUCTURE

December 12, 2025

SENT VIA E-MAIL TO: info@aflegal.org

Will Scolinos
America First Legal Foundation
611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231
Washington, DC 20003

Re: CISA Case Number 2026-NPFO-00162

Dear Requester:

This acknowledges receipt of your December 9, 2025, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and to your request for expedited treatment and a waiver of all assessable FOIA fees. Specifically, you are seeking

1. All records, including communications, mentioning the organizations listed below that include any of the terms “misinformation,” “disinformation,” “malinformation,” “MDM,” or “breaking containment.” This includes, but is not limited to all records including or sent to/from the email domains listed below:

- a. European Commission (@ec.europa.eu)
- b. Council on Foreign Relations (@cfr.org)
- c. Integrity Institute (@integrityinstitute.org)
- d. EU DisinfoLab (@disinfo.eu)
- e. Atlantic Council/Digital Forensic Research Lab (“Atlantic Council,” “DFRLab”) (@atlanticcouncil.org)
- f. Avaaz (@avaaz.org)
- g. Counter Extremism Project (@counterextremism.com)
- h. Dangerous Speech Project (@dangerousspeech.org)
- i. The American Sunlight Project (@americansunlight.org)
- j. European Digital Media Observatory (“EDMO”) (edmo@eui.eu)
- k. Center for Countering Digital Hate (“CCDH”) (@counterhate.com)
- l. Southern Poverty Law Center (“SPLC”) (@splcenter.org)

2. All communications with any of the groups mentioned in Part 1 of this request relating to the suppression of speech, including but not limited to records relating to content moderation, suppression of narratives, or the regulation (including fines or penalties) for social media sites like Twitter/X.
3. All communications between CISA and any of the groups mentioned in Part 1 of this request.
4. All records and communications between CISA and either the groups listed in Part 1 or with representatives of the European Commission relating to the European Commission's financial penalties levied against "X," or "X Corp," between October 28, 2022, and January 20, 2025.

The time period for Parts 1–3 of this request is from January 20, 2021, through January 20, 2025, Your request was received in this office on December 9, 2025.

Your request for expedited treatment is hereby denied.

Under the DHS FOIA regulations, expedited processing of a FOIA request is warranted if the request involves "circumstances in which the lack of expedited treatment could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual," 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.5(e)(1)(i); "an urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity, if made by a person who is primarily engaged in disseminating information," 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.5(e)(1)(ii); "the loss of substantial due process rights," 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.5(e)(1)(iii); or "a matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government's integrity which affect public confidence," 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.5(e)(1)(iv). Requesters seeking expedited processing must submit a statement explaining in detail the basis for the request, and that statement must be certified by the requester to be true and correct pursuant to 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.5(e)(3).

Your request for expedited processing is denied because you do not qualify under any category pursuant to 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.5(e)(1). You have not established that lack of expedited treatment in this case will pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual. You have not established the loss of substantial due process rights. While you may be primarily engaged in the dissemination of information, you have not detailed with specificity why you feel there is an urgency to inform the public about email communications between CISA and various organizations. Qualifying urgency would need to exceed the public's right to know about government activity generally. You also did not offer sufficient supporting evidence of an interest of the public greater than the public's general interest in email communications from CISA with various organizations. Finally, you did not establish this is a matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government's

integrity which affect public confidence. Your letter was conclusory in nature and did not present any facts to justify a grant of expedited processing under the applicable standards.

You have requested a fee waiver. The DHS FOIA Regulations at 6 CFR § 5.11(k) set forth six factors CISA must evaluate to determine whether the applicable legal standard for a fee waiver has been met: (1) Whether the subject of the requested records concerns “the operations or activities of the government,” (2) Whether the disclosure is “likely to contribute” to an understanding of government operations or activities, (3) Whether disclosure of the requested information will contribute to the understanding of the public at large, as opposed to the individual understanding of the requester or a narrow segment of interested persons, (4) Whether the contribution to public understanding of government operations or activities will be “significant,” (5) Whether the requester has a commercial interest that would be furthered by the requested disclosure, and (6) Whether the magnitude of any identified commercial interest to the requester is sufficiently large in comparison with the public interest in disclosure, that disclosure is primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.

Upon review of the subject matter of your request, and an evaluation of the six factors identified above, CISA has determined that it will conditionally grant your request for a fee waiver. The fee waiver determination will be based upon a sampling of the responsive documents received from the various CISA program offices as a result of the searches conducted in response to your FOIA request. CISA will, pursuant to DHS regulations applicable to media requesters, process the first 100 pages. If upon review of these documents, CISA determines that the disclosure of the information contained in those documents does not meet the factors permitting CISA to waive the fees, then CISA will at that time either deny your request for a fee waiver entirely, or will allow for a percentage reduction in the amount of the fees corresponding to the amount of relevant material found that meets the factors allowing for a fee waiver. In either case, CISA will promptly notify you of its final decision regarding your request for a fee waiver and provide you with the responsive records as required by applicable law.

In the event that your fee waiver is denied, and you determine that you still want the records, provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover part of the cost of complying with your request. We shall charge you for records in accordance with the DHS FOIA regulations as they apply to media requestors. As a media requester you will be charged 10 cents per page for duplication; the first 100 pages are free. In the event that your fee waiver is denied, we will construe the submission of your request as an agreement to pay up to \$25.00. This office will contact you before accruing any additional fees.

If you deem the decision to deny expedited treatment of your request an adverse determination, you have the right to appeal. Should you wish to do so, you must send your appeal and a copy of this letter, within 90 days of the date of this letter, to: Privacy Office, Attn: FOIA Appeals, U.S.

Department of Homeland Security, 2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE, Mail Stop 0655, Washington, D.C. 20528-0655 or email foia@hq.dhs.gov, following the procedures outlined in the DHS FOIA regulations at 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.8. Your envelope and letter should be marked "FOIA Appeal." Copies of the FOIA and DHS FOIA regulations are available at www.dhs.gov/foia.

We have queried the appropriate program offices within CISA for responsive records. If any responsive records are located, they will be reviewed for determination of releasability. Please be assured that one of the processors in our office will respond to your request as expeditiously as possible. We appreciate your patience as we proceed with your request.

If you need any further assistance or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, please contact the FOIA office and refer to FOIA case number **2026-NPFO-00162**. You may send an e-mail to FOIA@HQ.DHS.GOV, call 202-343-1743, or you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison in the same manner.

Additionally, you have a right to right to seek dispute resolution services from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) which mediates disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. You may contact OGIS as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.



Homeland
Security

December 11, 2025

SENT VIA E-MAIL TO: info@aflegal.org

Will Scolinos
America First Legal Foundation
611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231
Washington, DC 20003

Re: 2026-HQFO-01237

Dear Requester:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), dated December 9, 2025, and to your request for expedited handling and a waiver of all assessable FOIA fees. Our office received your request on December 9, 2025. Specifically, you requested:

1. All records, including communications, mentioning the organizations listed below that include any of the terms “misinformation,” “disinformation,” “malinformation,” “MDM,” or “breaking containment.” This includes, but is not limited to all records including or sent to/from the email domains listed below:

- a. European Commission (@ec.europa.eu)
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- f. Avaaz (@avaaz.org)
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- h. Dangerous Speech Project (@dangerousspeech.org)
- i. The American Sunlight Project (@americansunlight.org)
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3. All communications between the Department of Homeland Security and any of the groups mentioned in Part 1 of this request.

The time period for Parts 1–3 of this request is from January 20, 2021, through January 20, 2025.

4. All records and communications between the Department of Homeland Security and either the groups listed in Part 1 or with representatives of the European Commission relating to the European Commission’s financial penalties levied against “X,” or “X Corp,” between October 28, 2022, and January 20, 2025.

Your request for expedited treatment is hereby denied.

Under the DHS FOIA regulations, expedited processing of a FOIA request is warranted if the request involves “circumstances in which the lack of expedited treatment could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual,” 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.5(e)(1)(i); “an urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity, if made by a person who is primarily engaged in disseminating information,” 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.5(e)(1)(ii); “the loss of substantial due process rights,” 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.5(e)(1)(iii); or “a matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government’s integrity which affect public confidence,” 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.5(e)(1)(iv). Requesters seeking expedited processing must submit a statement explaining in detail the basis for the request, and that statement must be certified by the requester to be true and correct pursuant to 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.5(e)(3).

Your request for expedited processing is denied because you do not qualify under any category pursuant to 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.5(e)(1). You have not established that lack of expedited treatment in this case will pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual. You have not established the loss of substantial due process rights. While you may be primarily engaged in the dissemination of information, you have not detailed with specificity why you feel there is an urgency to inform the public about email communications from certain DHS Offices with various organizations. Qualifying urgency would need to exceed the public’s right to know about government activity generally. You also did not offer sufficient supporting evidence of an interest of the public greater than the public’s general interest in email communications from certain DHS Offices with various organizations. Finally, you did not establish this is a matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government’s integrity which affect public confidence. Your letter was conclusory in nature and did not present any facts to justify a grant of expedited processing under the applicable standards.

Due to the increasing number of FOIA requests received by this office, we may encounter some delay in processing your request. Consistent with 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.5(a) of the DHS FOIA regulations, the Department processes FOIA requests according to their order of receipt. Although DHS’ goal is to respond within 20 business days of receipt of your request, FOIA does permit a 10-day extension of this time period in certain circumstances under 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.5(c). As your request seeks documents that will require a thorough and wide-ranging search, DHS will invoke a 10-day extension for your request pursuant to 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.5(c). If you would like to narrow the scope of your request, please contact our office. We will make every effort to comply with your request in a timely manner.

You have requested a fee waiver. The DHS FOIA regulations at 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.11(k) set forth six factors DHS must evaluate to determine whether the applicable legal standard for a fee waiver has been met: (1) Whether the subject of the requested records concerns “the operations or activities of the government,” (2) Whether the disclosure is “likely to contribute” to an understanding of government operations or activities, (3) Whether disclosure of the requested information will contribute to the understanding of the public at large, as opposed to the individual understanding of the requester or a narrow segment of interested persons, (4) Whether the contribution to public understanding of government operations or activities will be “significant,” (5) Whether the requester has a commercial interest that would be furthered by the requested disclosure, and (6) Whether the magnitude of any identified commercial interest to the requester is sufficiently large in comparison with the public interest in disclosure, that disclosure is primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.

Upon review of the subject matter of your request, and an evaluation of the six factors identified above, DHS has determined that it will conditionally grant your request for a fee waiver. The fee waiver determination will be based upon a sampling of the responsive documents received from the various DHS program offices as a result of the searches conducted in response to your FOIA request. DHS will, pursuant to DHS FOIA regulations applicable to non-commercial requesters, provide two hours of search time and process the first 100 pages at no charge to you. If upon review of these documents, DHS determines that the disclosure of the information contained in those documents does not meet the factors permitting DHS to waive the fees, then DHS will at that time either deny your request for a fee waiver entirely, or will allow for a percentage reduction in the amount of the fees corresponding to the amount of relevant material found that meets the factors allowing for a fee waiver. In either case, DHS will promptly notify you of its final decision regarding your request for a fee waiver and provide you with the responsive records as required by applicable law.

In the event that your fee waiver is denied, and you determine that you still want the records, provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover part of the cost of complying with your request. We shall charge you for records in accordance with the DHS FOIA regulations as they apply to non-commercial requesters. As a non-commercial requester you will be charged for any search time and duplication beyond the free two hours and 100 pages mentioned in the previous paragraph. You will be charged 10 cents per page for duplication and search time at the per quarter-hour rate (\$4.00 for clerical personnel, \$7.00 for professional personnel, \$10.25 for managerial personnel) of the searcher. In the event that your fee waiver is denied, we will construe the submission of your request as an agreement to pay up to \$25.00. This office will contact you before accruing any additional fees.

We have queried the appropriate component(s) of DHS for responsive records. If any responsive records are located, they will be reviewed for determination of releasability. Please be assured that one of the analysts in our office will respond to your request as expeditiously as possible. We appreciate your patience as we proceed with your request.

If you deem the decision to deny expedited treatment of your request an adverse determination, you have the right to appeal. Should you wish to do so, you must send your appeal and a copy of this letter, within 90 days of the date of this letter, to: Privacy Office, Attn: FOIA Appeals, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE, Mail Stop 0655, Washington, D.C. 20528-0655, following the procedures outlined in the DHS FOIA regulations at 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.5(e)(2). Your envelope and letter should be marked "FOIA Appeal." Copies of the FOIA and DHS FOIA regulations are available at www.dhs.gov/foia.

Your request has been assigned reference number **2026-HQFO-01237**. Please refer to this identifier in any future correspondence. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this matter, please feel free to contact this office at 1-866-431-0486 or 202-343-1743.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Bridges". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gregory" and last name "Bridges" clearly distinguishable.

Gregory Bridges
Director, Disclosure
Department of Homeland Security, Privacy Office

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

CLEAR FORM

AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

Plaintiff

v.
U.S. CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY
AGENCY; and U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Defendant

Civil Action No. 1:26-cv-562

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: *(Defendant's name and address)*

U.S. CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY
Office of the Chief Counsel
CISA — NGL STOP 0630
1110 N. Glebe Road
Arlington, VA 20598

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 30 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

Robert A. Crossin, Esq.
611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231
Washington, D.C. 20003

If you fail to respond, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

ANGELA D. CAESAR, CLERK OF COURT

Date: _____

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. 1:26-cv-562

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* _____
was received by me on *(date)* _____.

I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* _____
_____, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,
on *(date)* _____, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on *(name of individual)* _____, who is
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I returned the summons unexecuted because _____; or

Other *(specify)*: _____

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ _____ 0.00.

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

Print

Save As...

Reset

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

CLEAR FORM

AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

Plaintiff

v.
U.S. CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY
AGENCY; and U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Defendant

Civil Action No. 1:26-cv-562

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: *(Defendant's name and address)*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Office of the General Counsel
245 Murray Lane SW
Mail Stop 0485
Washington, DC 20528

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 30 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

Robert A. Crossin, Esq.
611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231
Washington, D.C. 20003

If you fail to respond, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

ANGELA D. CAESAR, CLERK OF COURT

Date: _____

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. 1:26-cv-562

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* _____
was received by me on *(date)* _____.

I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* _____
_____, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,
on *(date)* _____, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on *(name of individual)* _____, who is
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I returned the summons unexecuted because _____; or

Other *(specify)*: _____

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ _____ 0.00.

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

Print

Save As...

Reset

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

CLEAR FORM

AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

Plaintiff

v.
U.S. CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY
AGENCY; and U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Defendant

Civil Action No. 1:26-cv-562

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: *(Defendant's name and address)*
Attorney General Pamela Bondi
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 30 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

Robert A. Crossin, Esq.
611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231
Washington, D.C. 20003

If you fail to respond, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

ANGELA D. CAESAR, CLERK OF COURT

Date: _____

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. 1:26-cv-562

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* _____
was received by me on *(date)* _____.

I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* _____
_____, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,
on *(date)* _____, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on *(name of individual)* _____, who is
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I returned the summons unexecuted because _____; or

Other *(specify)*: _____

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ _____ 0.00.

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

Print

Save As...

Reset

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

CLEAR FORM

AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

Plaintiff

v.

U.S. CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY
AGENCY; and U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Defendant

Civil Action No. 1:26-cv-562

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: *(Defendant's name and address)*

U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia
Attn: Civil Process Clerk
601 D Street NW
Washington DC 20530
Email service to: USADC.ServiceCivil@usdoj.gov

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 30 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

Robert A. Crossin, Esq.
611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231
Washington, D.C. 20003

If you fail to respond, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

ANGELA D. CAESAR, CLERK OF COURT

Date: _____

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. 1:26-cv-562

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

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was received by me on *(date)* _____.

I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* _____
_____, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,
on *(date)* _____, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on *(name of individual)* _____, who is
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I returned the summons unexecuted because _____; or

Other *(specify)*: _____

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ _____ 0.00.

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

Print

Save As...

Reset

<input type="radio"/> G. Habeas Corpus/ 2255 <input type="checkbox"/> 530 Habeas Corpus – General <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motion/Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Habeas Corpus – Alien Detainee	<input type="radio"/> H. Employment Discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Civil Rights – Employment (criteria: race, gender/sex, national origin, discrimination, disability, age, religion, retaliation) *(If pro se, select this deck)*	<input checked="" type="radio"/> I. FOIA/Privacy Act <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions (if Privacy Act) *(If pro se, select this deck)*	<input type="radio"/> J. Student Loan <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loan (excluding veterans)
<input type="radio"/> K. Labor/ERISA (non-employment) <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Labor Railway Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	<input type="radio"/> L. Other Civil Rights (non-employment) <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting (if not Voting Rights Act) <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Americans w/Disabilities – Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Americans w/Disabilities – Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<input type="radio"/> M. Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran’s Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholder’s Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<input type="radio"/> N. Three-Judge Court <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Civil Rights – Voting (if Voting Rights Act)

V. ORIGIN
 1 Original Proceeding
 2 Removed from State Court
 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
 4 Reinstated or Reopened
 5 Transferred from another district (specify)
 6 Multi-district Litigation
 7 Appeal to District Judge from Mag. Judge
 8 Multi-district Litigation – Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE.)
 Violation of FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT
 CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23
 DEMAND \$ _____
 JURY DEMAND: YES NO
 Check YES only if demanded in complaint

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY
 (See instruction)
 YES NO
 If yes, please complete related case form

DATE: Feb. 19, 2026
 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD:

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET JS-44
 Authority for Civil Cover Sheet

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and services of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. Listed below are tips for completing the civil cover sheet. These tips coincide with the Roman Numerals on the cover sheet.

- I. COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF/DEFENDANT (b) County of residence: Use 11001 to indicate plaintiff if resident of Washington, DC, 88888 if plaintiff is resident of United States but not Washington, DC, and 99999 if plaintiff is outside the United States.
- III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES: This section is completed only if diversity of citizenship was selected as the Basis of Jurisdiction under Section II.
- IV. CASE ASSIGNMENT AND NATURE OF SUIT: The assignment of a judge to your case will depend on the category you select that best represents the primary cause of action found in your complaint. You may select only one category. You must also select one corresponding nature of suit found under the category of the case.
- VI. CAUSE OF ACTION: Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write a brief statement of the primary cause.
- VIII. RELATED CASE(S), IF ANY: If you indicated that there is a related case, you must complete a related case form, which may be obtained from the Clerk’s Office.

Because of the need for accurate and complete information, you should ensure the accuracy of the information provided prior to signing the form.