



OFFICE of GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

March 20, 2015 — Sent via e-mail

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Re: Case No.: 201500237  
NG: CM: KG

NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES  
and RECORDS  
ADMINISTRATION

8601 ADELPHI ROAD  
OGIS

COLLEGE PARK, MD  
20740-6001

web: [www.ogis.archives.gov](http://www.ogis.archives.gov)

e-mail: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)

phone: 202-741-5770

toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

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[REDACTED]:

This responds to your request for assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), which we received on December 18, 2014 via email. Your request for assistance pertains to your records request to Social Security Administration (SSA).

OGIS was created to complement existing FOIA practice and procedure; we strive to work in conjunction with the existing request and appeal process. The goal is for OGIS to allow, whenever practical, the requester to exhaust his or her remedies within the agency, including the appeal process.

OGIS provides mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. After opening a case, OGIS gathers information from the requester and the agency to learn more about the nature of the dispute. OGIS then decides how to proceed on the request for assistance. Please know that OGIS has no investigatory or enforcement power, nor can we compel an agency to release documents. OGIS serves as the Federal FOIA Ombudsman and our jurisdiction is limited to assisting with the FOIA process.

OGIS staff carefully reviewed the correspondence you submitted with your request for assistance. I understand that you made a request to SSA for [REDACTED] records held by the Social Security Administration [REDACTED]. The agency responded with a no records response. You appealed this response. On November 7, 2014 SSA denied your appeal, affirming the no records determination.



OGIS reached out to the SSA to get more information on your case. The agency explained that it does not maintain the information you seek in the format that you requested. Some of the information you seek is located in an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) database; however, this IRS data is considered tax return information, the release of which is prohibited by FOIA Exemption 3, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3) and IRC 6103(e)(7). Moreover, SSA would have to search other SSA databases and create a new record to provide you with all the specific information you requested. As you may be aware, the FOIA does not require agencies to do research, analyze data, answer written questions, or to create records in response to a request.

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I hope you find this information useful in understanding why the SSA denied your request. At this time, there is no further assistance OGIS can offer. Thank you for bringing this matter to OGIS. I will close your case.

Sincerely,

/s/

Nikki Gramian, Acting Director  
Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)

We appreciate your feedback. Please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/OGIS> to take a brief anonymous survey on the service you received from OGIS.