

# EXHIBIT A



United States Department of State

Washington, DC 20520

August 22, 2025

Case No. F-2025-08930/  
FL-2025-00072

Brian Scott Green  
Law Office of Brian Green  
9609 South University Blvd  
#630084  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80130

Dear Mr. Green:

This letter is in response to your request dated January 28, 2025, regarding the release of certain Department of State ("Department") material under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552. Thus far, the Department has identified one responsive record subject to the FOIA. Upon review, we have determined that this record may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on the record. Where applicable, the Department has considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing the record and applying FOIA exemptions. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

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). 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. To the extent another agency

asserts that it can neither confirm nor deny the existence of certain records, the Department of State will similarly take the position that it neither confirms nor denies the existence of those records.

This concludes the processing of your request. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diamonece Hickson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Diamonece Hickson  
Supervisory Government Information Specialist  
Litigation and Appeals Office

Enclosures: As stated.

**The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)****FOIA Exemptions**

(b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:

- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
- 1.4(b) Foreign government information
- 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
- 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
- 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
- 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction

(b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency

(b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:

ARMSEXP	Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c)
CIA PERS/ORG	Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)
EXPORT CONTROL	Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c)
FS ACT	Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004
INA	Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f)
IRAN	Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505

(b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information

(b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product

(b)(6) Personal privacy information

(b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:

- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
- (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
- (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
- (D) disclose confidential sources
- (E) disclose investigation techniques
- (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual

(b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions

(b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

**Other Grounds for Withholding**

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6); (b)(7)(E) [REDACTED] (b)(6) @state.gov>
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<b>Subject:</b>	URGENT ACTION NEEDED: FOIA FL-2025-00072 or F-2025-08930 in Litigation
<b>Date:</b>	2025/07/25 20:46:14
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal
<b>Type:</b>	Note

Hi (b)(6)

(b)(6) is out of office (so I cannot access the original thread), but we have compiled the information needed and wanted to get you a response before the weekend:

**Among all NIV applications that that received a 221(g) refusal and were adjudicated between Jan 1, 2020 and Jan 1, 2025, approximately 71.2% were ultimately Issued. In the case of IV applications that had a 221(g) refusal and were adjudicated during this time frame, 78.3% were ultimately Issued.**

Notes (feel free to provide to the plaintiff if they have questions about these numbers):

- \* The analysis is based on applications whose last adjudication date was between the target date range of Jan 1, 2020 to Jan 1, 2025. Since it is common for an application to have multiple adjudication statuses entered within the lifecycle of the application (*i.e. an applicant is first refused 221(g) or other ineligibility and once the ineligibility is overcome the status is changed to issued or an applicant is refused with for one ineligibility and then an additional ineligibility is found and entered on a later date*), VO-DO-I counts the number of applications issued and refused within a given time frame based on the most recent adjudication date and adjudication status of each application.
- \* The calculation regarding the percentage of applications that received a 221(g) refusal and were later issued is as follows:

$$\frac{[ \text{total number of applications that received a 221(g), but whose latest adjudication status is issued} ]}{[ \text{total number of applications that received a 221(g) (regardless of latest adjudication status)} ]}$$

- • \* The method of counting the number of applications based on the date and status of the **latest** adjudication will inevitably result in including a small number of applications whose **first** adjudication occurred prior to the period start of Jan 1, 2020. This results from the fact that applications can be adjudicated multiple times over varying periods of time (i.e. days, months, etc.).
- • \* An alternative method for determining which applications to include as falling within the time range was considered. It consisted in including any applications whose **first** adjudication occurred between the target date range of Jan 1, 2020 to Jan 1, 2025. However, this method was considered less accurate as it would have undercounted the number of 221(g) applications that were ultimately issued. This is because many of the applications first adjudicated near the end of the target date range (i.e. end of 2024) would not have had time to become issued and would instead still show in refused status, thus reducing the percent of 221(g) refusals that are ultimately issued.

Let us know if there are any questions!

(b)(6)

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