

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

CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY)	
AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
vs.)	Civil Action No. 19-2719 (CRC)
)	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY)	
)	
Defendant.)	
)	

DEFENDANT’S ANSWER

Defendant, the U.S. Department of the Treasury (“Treasury” or “Defendant”), by and through undersigned counsel, hereby answers the allegations in the corresponding enumerated paragraphs in the Complaint (ECF No. 1) as follows:

FIRST DEFENSE

Some of the information contained in the records sought by Plaintiff is exempt from disclosure under one or more exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552, subparagraph (b), which will be identified in greater detail when Defendant completes its search and review of records that may be responsive to Plaintiff’s FOIA requests.

SECOND DEFENSE

The Court lacks jurisdiction over the subject matter of this Complaint for any relief that exceeds the relief authorized by statute.

THIRD DEFENSE

Defendant respectfully requests and reserves the right to amend, alter, and supplement the defenses contained in this answer as the facts and circumstances giving rise to the Complaint become known to it through the course of the litigation.

GENERAL DENIAL

Defendant denies all allegations set forth in the Complaint not otherwise admitted below. To the extent the Complaint refers to or quotes from external documents, statutes, or other sources, Defendant may refer to such materials for their accurate and complete contents in the response; however, Defendant's references are not intended to be, and should not be construed to be, an admission that the cited materials: (a) are correctly cited or quoted by Plaintiff; (b) are relevant to this, or any other, action; or (c) are admissible in this, or any other, action.

SPECIFIC DENIALS AND RESPONSES¹

1. Paragraph 1 contains Plaintiff's characterizations of this FOIA action to which no response is required. To the extent an answer is deemed required, denied.
2. Paragraph 2 contains Plaintiff's characterizations of this FOIA action to which no response is required. To the extent an answer is deemed required, denied.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. This paragraph sets forth legal conclusions regarding jurisdiction and venue to which no response is required.

PARTIES

4. Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations in this paragraph.
5. Defendant admits that it is a federal agency within the meaning of FOIA. The remainder of paragraph 5 consists of legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent an answer is deemed required, denied.

¹For ease of reference, the Answer refers to the headings listed in the Complaint. Defendant has not responded to those headings on the understanding that the headings are not factual allegations. To the extent a response is required to the headings, Defendant denies them.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

6. Admit.

7. The allegations in this paragraph consist of legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent an answer is deemed required, denied.

8. The allegations in this paragraph consist of legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent an answer is deemed required, denied.

9. Admit in part regarding contents of financial disclosure. The remainder of the allegations in this paragraph consist of legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent an answer is deemed required, denied.

10. Defendant lacks sufficient knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in this paragraph.

11. The allegations in this paragraph consist of legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent an answer is deemed required, denied.

12. Paragraph 12 contains Plaintiff's characterization of its FOIA request which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its content. Defendant denies Plaintiff's characterization to the extent it is inconsistent with the request and/or the Defendant's records and respectfully refers the Court to the text of the FOIA request for a full and accurate statement of its content.

13. Paragraph 13 contains Plaintiff's characterization of its FOIA request which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its content. Defendant denies Plaintiff's characterization to the extent it is inconsistent with the request and/or the Defendant's records and respectfully refers the Court to the text of the FOIA request for a full and accurate statement of its content.

14. Paragraph 14 contains Plaintiff's characterization of its FOIA request which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its content. Defendant denies Plaintiff's characterization to the extent it is inconsistent with the request and/or the Defendant's records and respectfully refers the Court to the text of the FOIA request for a full and accurate statement of its content.

15. Defendant lacks sufficient knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in this paragraph.

16. Defendant admits that it has not provided a substantive response to Plaintiff's FOIA request. The remainder of the allegations of this paragraph consist of Plaintiff's characterization of its action and legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent an answer is deemed required, denied.

PLAINTIFF'S CLAIM FOR RELIEF

17. Defendant repeats and incorporates by reference its responses in the foregoing paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein.

18. The allegations in this paragraph consist of Plaintiff's characterization of its FOIA request and legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent an answer is deemed required, denied.

19. The allegations in this paragraph consist of legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent an answer is deemed required, denied.

20. The allegations in this paragraph consist of legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent an answer is deemed required, denied.

21. The allegations in this paragraph consist of legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent an answer is deemed required, denied.

REQUESTED RELIEF

The remainder of the Complaint consists of a Plaintiff's prayer for relief to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendant denies that Plaintiff is entitled to the relief requested.

Dated: November 18, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

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