

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE  
WASHINGTON, DC

John Solomon

August 28, 2020

Email: [john@solomonmediallc.com](mailto:john@solomonmediallc.com)

Mr. Solomon:

This letter responds to your Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) request dated 24 August 2020 and received by the Information Management Division on 25 August 2020. Pursuant to the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended, you requested “*copies of all records since Jan. 1, 2015 that show the frequency by which professional journalists' phone records were searched via the NSA database and any journalists' overseas conversations were unmasked*”.

In accordance with Section 3.6(a) of Executive Order 13526, ODNI can neither confirm nor deny the existence or non-existence of the requested records. The fact of the existence or non-existence of the requested records is itself currently and properly classified, and could reveal intelligence sources and methods information that is protected from disclosure pursuant to Section 102A(i)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, 50 U.S.C. § 3024(i)(1). Therefore, pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3), the ODNI can neither confirm nor deny the existence or nonexistence of records responsive to your request.

You may contact me, the FOIA Public Liaison, at [dni-foia-liaison@dni.gov](mailto:dni-foia-liaison@dni.gov) or (301) 243-2025 for any further assistance or to discuss any aspect of your request. You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (“OGIS”) of the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the mediation services they provide. OGIS can be reached by mail at 8601 Adelphi Road, Room 2510, College Park, MD 20740-6001; telephone (202) 741-5770; facsimile (202) 741-5769; Toll-free (877) 684-6448; or email at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov).

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request, you may administratively appeal by submitting a written request to the Chief FOIA Officer, c/o Director, Information Management Division, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Washington, DC 20511 [or dni-foia@dni.gov](mailto:dni-foia@dni.gov). The request letter and envelope or subject line of the email should be marked “Freedom of Information Act Appeal.” Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of this letter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Requester Service Center at [dni-foia@dni.gov](mailto:dni-foia@dni.gov) or (301) 243-1499.

Sincerely,



Sally A. Nicholson  
Chief, Information Review &  
Release Group  
FOIA Public Liaison  
Information Management Office