



**Homeland
Security**

March 12, 2013

Dear Member of Congress:

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) receives more Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests than any other department or agency. In Fiscal Year 2012, DHS processed 205,895 requests and reduced its end-of-year backlog by 33 percent compared to Fiscal Year 2011, despite another record-breaking year in the volume of requests received. To build upon this strong record and consistent with the President's Open Government Initiative, the Department will begin posting its logs of Congressional correspondence quarterly to the DHS FOIA Library, which is available online at www.dhs.gov/foia. These logs are already subject to public release under FOIA upon request, and this practice is consistent with the Department of Defense and certain other federal agencies. More importantly, proactive disclosure is in the public interest, as it will provide valuable information on DHS activities without requiring the public to submit FOIA requests for that information. It will also strengthen our ability to continue reducing FOIA processing times.

The posted logs will encompass Congressional correspondence on both policy and constituent matters. To protect the personal privacy of constituents, DHS will redact any personally identifiable information related to constituent matters under FOIA Exemption 6 prior to posting the logs online. Beginning with correspondence received April 1, 2013, DHS will post its logs of Congressional correspondence quarterly. The Department will thus begin to process and post its log of correspondence received from April 2013 through June 2013 beginning in July 2013, and will continue to post correspondence logs on a quarterly basis thereafter.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact David O'Leary at (202) 447-0385 or me at (202) 447-5890.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nelson Peacock".

Nelson Peacock
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs