



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20503

January 3, 2020

Mr. Charlie Savage
The New York Times
1627 I Street NW
Washington, DC 20006

Sent via email: mccrad@nytimes.com

RE: *New York Times Co. et al. v. Office of Management and Budget*, 19-cv-03562 (DDC)

Dear Mr. Savage:

This is an interim response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) received on September 26, 2019, seeking “all email correspondence between Michael Duffey and Robert Blair from May 1 to the present.” OMB assigned your FOIA request tracking number 2019-486.

In accordance with the Joint Status Report filed in this matter dated December 13, 2019, OMB conducted a search for communications between Michael Duffey and Robert Blair from May 1 to October 9, 2019, and identified a total of 20 responsive documents, consisting of 40 pages, excluding those not related to the Ukraine-matter. All 20 documents are being withheld in full pursuant to FOIA Exemption 5, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5). Exemption 5 protects both deliberative and presidential communications, the disclosure of which would inhibit the frank and candid exchange of views that is necessary for effective government decision-making.

Please note that because your request is in litigation, your administrative appellate rights are now moot. If you have any questions about this interim response, please contact Rebecca Cutri-Kohart at (202) 514-0265 or Rebecca.Cutri-Kohart@usdoj.gov.

Sincerely,


Dionne Hardy
FOIA Officer