



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
Office of the Chief Information Officer  
High Performance Computing and Communications

January 31, 2020

Dear Requester,

This correspondence is to inform you that we have produced an interim release to your request. As you are aware from the recent acknowledgment letter you received, given the significant public interest in the records consistent with the 2016 FOIA Improvement Act, we are responding concurrently to all Dorian-related FOIA requests with rolling interim releases of the records through the FOIA Reading Room (<https://www.noaa.gov/foia-reading-room>).

We have located **526** records responsive to your request. We are releasing **273** records to you in their entirety.

We are also releasing **253** records responsive to your request that contain redactions under the following exemptions:

- **37** records are being partially withheld under **5 U.S.C.552(b)(5)**, which prohibits from disclosure “inter-agency or intraagency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency.”
- **240** records are being partially withheld under exemption **5 U.S.C.552(b)(6)**, which prohibits from disclosure information about individuals in “personnel and medical files and similar files” when the disclosure of such information “would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.”

You have the right to file an administrative appeal if you are not satisfied with our response to your FOIA request. All appeals should include a statement of the reasons why you believe the FOIA response was not satisfactory. An appeal based on documents in this release must be received within 90 calendar days of the date of this response letter at the following address:

Assistant General Counsel for Employment, Litigation, and Information  
Attn: FOIA Appeals  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave. NW, Room 5896  
Washington, DC 20230

An appeal may also be sent by e-mail to [FOIAAppeals@doc.gov](mailto:FOIAAppeals@doc.gov), or by FOIAonline at <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home#>.

For your appeal to be complete, it must include the following items:

- a copy of the original request,
- our response to your request,
- a statement explaining why the withheld records should be made available, and why the denial of the records was in error.
- “Freedom of Information Act Appeal” must appear on your appeal letter. It should also be written on your envelope, or e-mail subject line.

FOIA appeals posted to the e-mail box, FOIAonline, or Office after normal business hours will be deemed received on the next business day. If the 90th calendar day for submitting an appeal falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal public holiday, an appeal received by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, the next business day will be deemed timely.

FOIA grants requesters the right to challenge an agency's final action in federal court. Before doing so, an adjudication of an administrative appeal is ordinarily required.

The Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), an office created within the National Archives and Records Administration, offers free mediation services to FOIA requesters. They may be contacted in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
Room 2510  
8601 Adelphi Road  
College Park, MD 20740-6001  
Email: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)

Phone: 301-837-1996  
Fax: 301-837-0348  
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

If you have questions regarding this correspondence, please contact James LeDuc at [james.leduc@noaa.gov](mailto:james.leduc@noaa.gov) or the NOAA FOIA Public Liaison Ed Kearns at (301) 628-5658.

Sincerely

p.p.  
Mark H. Graff  
FOIA Officer/Bureau Chief Privacy Officer  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration