



August 12, 2020

Patricia Gaviria  
Director, Information Management Division  
ATTN: FOIA/PA  
Office of the Director of National Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20511

VIA E-mail: [dni-foia@dni.gov](mailto:dni-foia@dni.gov)

**RE: Freedom of Information Act request**

Dear Mr. Gaviria:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, *et seq*, to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence ("ODNI"). We are seeking finished intelligence produced since January 2015, which addresses biosafety research with potential dual-use applications in Canada, China, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Iran, Israel, the Netherlands, Russia, former countries of the Soviet Union, South Africa, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and Thailand. We are particularly interested in finished intelligence about the accidental or deliberate release of biological agents, containment failures in biosafety-level (BSL)-2, BSL-3 or BSL-4 research facilities, and other incidents of concern related to dual-use biosafety research in BSL-2, BSL-3 or BSL-4 research facilities in these countries.

We request that you disclose the above documents and materials as they become available, without waiting until all the documents have been compiled.

If documents are denied in whole or in part, please specify which exemption(s) is (are) claimed for each passage or whole document denied. Give the number of pages in each document and the total number of pages pertaining to this request and the dates of documents withheld. We request that excised material be "blacked out" rather than "whited out" or cut out and that the remaining non-exempt portions of documents be released as provided under the Freedom of Information Act. Please send a memo (with a copy or copies to me) to the appropriate unit(s) in your office to assure that no records related to this request are destroyed.

U.S. Right to Know is requesting a waiver of or, at a minimum, a reduction in fees related to this request. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit research organization based in Oakland, California. As a public interest organization, we have no commercial interest in the records that are the subject of this FOIA request and would derive no financial benefit from their disclosure. Our research has been featured many times in newspapers such as the *New York Times* and *The Guardian*, as well as in medical and public health journals such as the *BMJ*. As with our prior work, we intend to disseminate newsworthy information to the general public by way of academic or media articles, or fact sheets, relying upon any records released in response to this FOIA request. These records, which are not publicly available at present, may shed light on foreign biosafety research networks. Such disclosure is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute to the public's understanding of dual use research of concern on dangerous pathogens in China and elsewhere. Further, documentation of such influence is important, and is in the

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public interest because it concerns how taxpayer resources are allocated, whether or not they are being wasted or squandered, and whether the public interest is being served.

We ask, if fees are assessed, that they not exceed \$25 without first contacting our office for authorization.

Please send the documents electronically in PDF format to Sainath Suryanarayanan at [sainath@usrtk.org](mailto:sainath@usrtk.org).

Please call, rather than write Gary Ruskin, if there are any questions or if you need additional information. He can be reached at (415) 944-7350.

Thank you for your help in filling this FOIA request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sainath".

Sainath Suryanarayanan, PhD  
Staff Scientist

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary Ruskin".

Gary Ruskin  
Executive Director