



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

December 20, 2021

Mr. Jeff Ruch
2483rd Street #331
Oakland, CA 94607

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request: EPA-2022-001050

Dear Mr. Ruch:

This is the response of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to your above-referenced Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeking (a) the number of criminal investigators currently assigned to the Office of Criminal Enforcement Forensics & Training, (OCEFT), and by fiscal year, for each fiscal year from FY2011 through 2021; (b) a summary reflecting the percentage or rate of CID agent turnover (or retention), including the seniority level of departing agents; (c) any analysis of whether CID agents are leaving the agency more quickly after initial training than was the case in prior years; (d) any summary of CID agents' exit interviews of departing agents with the reason or reasons for leaving; and (e) any analysis generated from the beginning of FY 2011 to present on the rate of declination of criminal referrals from CID by the Department of Justice.

OCEFT does not maintain records pertaining to either the percentage or rate of CID agent turnover (or retention), including the seniority level of departing agents, or an analysis of whether CID agents are leaving the agency more quickly after initial training than was the case in prior years.

OCEFT currently has 161 law enforcement agents, and enclosed are the following: records on the rate of declination of criminal referral and departing CID agents' exit interviews which state the reason or reasons for their departure from OCEFT. Portions of these interviews have been redacted because they are exempt from mandatory disclosure under 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), which exempts from disclosure information about individuals in personnel, medical, and other records the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy; and § 552 (b)(7)(C), which exempts from disclosure information compiled for law enforcement purposes which could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

This letter concludes our response to your request, and you may appeal this response by email at hq.foia@epa.gov, or by mail to the U.S. EPA's National FOIA Office, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (2310A), Washington, D.C. 20460. Only items mailed through the United States Postal Service may be delivered to this address. If you are submitting your appeal by hand-delivery, courier service, or overnight delivery, then you must address your correspondence to U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 5315, Washington, D.C. 20460.

Your appeal must be in writing, and it must be received no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter, and EPA will not consider appeals received after the 90-calendar-day limit. Appeals received after 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time will be considered received for the next business day. The appeal letter must include the FOIA tracking number listed above. For quickest possible handling, the subject line of your email, the appeal letter, and its envelope, if applicable, should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Additionally, you may seek dispute resolution services from U.S. EPA's FOIA Public Liaison at hq.foia@epa.gov or (202) 566-1667, or from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways: by mail sent to Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8610 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001; via email sent to ogis@nara.gov; telephone at (202) 741-5770 or (877) 684-6448; or facsimile at (202) 741-5769.

If you have questions regarding this response, then please contact Barbara Gentry of my staff via e-mail at gentry.barbara@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Fisher Director
Legal Counsel Division
Office of Criminal Enforcement,
Forensics & Training

Enclosures

cc: National Freedom of Information Officer
FOIA and Privacy Branch (2822T)