



**VIA EMAIL**

January 3, 2024

Michael Ding  
America First Legal Foundation  
foia@aflegal.org

Dear Michael Ding:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated August 9, 2022 for access to Biden Vice Presidential records pertaining to Vice President Biden's records regarding official travel and White House visits by Hunter Biden and James Biden. Your request was received by the Archival Operations Division on August 9, 2022. FOIA requests for Biden Vice Presidential records are processed and reviewed for access under provisions of the 1978 Presidential Records Act, as amended (PRA) (44 U.S.C. §§ 2201-2209), which incorporates the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552) in substantial part.

We have completed processing 19 Biden Vice Presidential email messages related to this request. Of this total, 5 email messages in whole and 12 email messages in part have been exempted from release in compliance with the restrictions of the PRA and applicable FOIA exemptions, which specify what material may be released to the public. All necessary steps were taken to segregate and release non-exempt information. The 5 email messages in whole and 12 email messages in part restricted from access are listed along with the exemption categories below. Some email messages may be restricted under more than one category.

P5 – 5 email messages  
P6/(b)(6) – 14 email messages  
(b)(7)(E) – 3 email messages

A list of the PRA restrictions and FOIA exemptions, as well as a copy of the finding aid that describes the processed material are attached.

The remaining 2 email messages in whole and 12 email messages in part are available. The released records are available for download at <https://www.archives.gov/research/vice-presidential-records/biden-records>. Click on "Download Zip File" for 2022-0120-F, your FOIA case number, which will take you to a new page with links to the finding aids and records for all released segments of your request. You can then click on the zip files under "Download Zip file" for 2022-0120-F [3].

If you are unsatisfied with this response, you have the right to file an administrative appeal of the withholding decisions under the exemption categories listed at 44 U.S.C. § 2204(a). The appeal must be submitted in writing to the Director, Archival Operations Division, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room G-7, Washington, DC 20408-0001. You should also include a copy of your original request and our denial. Both your appeal letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "PRA/FOIA Appeal." To be considered timely, your appeal must be postmarked or electronically submitted within 90 calendar days from the date of this letter.

If you need any further assistance, please contact our staff at 202-357-5200 or [presidential.materials@nara.gov](mailto:presidential.materials@nara.gov). Your FOIA case number is 2022-0120-F. Please have this number accessible for reference during any future contact concerning this case.

You may also contact United States Department of Justice Attorney Jacob S. Siler, [jacob.S.Siler@usdoj.gov](mailto:jacob.S.Siler@usdoj.gov) with any questions about this interim response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kate Dillon McClure". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kate" being the most prominent.

KATE DILLON MCCLURE  
Director  
Archival Operations Division

## **PRA Restrictions and FOIA Exemptions**

### **Presidential Records Act – [44 U.S.C. §2204(a)]**

P1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA]

P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]

P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]

P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]

P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]

P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

PRM Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3)

### **Freedom of Information Act – [5 U.S.C. §552(b)]**

(b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

(b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

(b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

(b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

(b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

(b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

(b)(7)(A) Release would disclose information concerning pending or prospective law enforcement proceedings [(b)(7)(A) of the FOIA]

(b)(7)(B) Release of information would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication [(b)(7)(B) of the FOIA]

(b)(7)(C) Release of information could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(7)(C) of the FOIA]

(b)(7)(D) Release of information could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of a record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, information furnished by a confidential source [(b)(7)(D) of the FOIA]

(b)(7)(E) Release of information would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law [(b)(7)(E) of the FOIA]

(b)(7)(F) Release of information could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of an individual [(b)(7)(F) of the FOIA]

(b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

(b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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**Inventory for 2022-120-F[3]****Records on Official Travel and White House Visits by Hunter and James Biden****Extent**

19 email messages

**Access**

Collection is open to all researchers. Access to Biden Vice Presidential records is governed by the Presidential Records Act, as amended (PRA) (44 USC 2201-2209) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 USC 552, as amended) and therefore may be restricted in whole or in part in accordance with legal restrictions and exemptions.

**Copyright**

Records in this collection that were prepared by officials of the United States Government as part of their official duties are in the public domain. Researchers are advised to consult the copyright law of the United States (Title 17, USC) which governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

**Provenance**

Official records of the Joseph Biden vice presidency are in the custody of the Archival Operations Division in Washington, DC and are administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act, as amended (PRA).

**Processed By**

Staff Archivists, September 2024. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

**Related Collections**

2022-0119-F, Records on Vice President Biden's Communications with Hunter and James Biden, Archival Operations Division

2022-0121-F, Records on Hunter Biden, James Biden, and Their Foreign Business Dealings, Archival Operations Division

**Scope and Content**

The materials in this series are selective, not necessarily all-inclusive, body of records responsive to the topic of FOIA case 2022-0120-F. The researcher submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for records for Biden Vice Presidential records concerning White House visits and official travel with his son Hunter Biden and brother James (Jim) Biden and narrowed their request to specific terms.

This series consists of email messages from Michele Smith and AnnMarie Tomisini to Hunter Biden related to official White House travel in which Hunter Biden was included. The email messages from Michele Smith relate to notices regarding domestic travel with Vice President Biden to Boston, Massachusetts in August 2009 and Dover, Delaware in September 2009 and foreign travel with Vice President Biden to Warsaw, Poland, Bucharest, Romania and Prague, Czech Republic in October 2009. The Boston Massachusetts trip was for attendance at events honoring the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy. The Dover Delaware trip was for a visit with members of the 261st Signal Brigade at the John Haslet Armory. The email message from AnnMarie Tomisini was a forward of compiled news articles related to the foreign official trip to Warsaw, Poland, Bucharest, Romania and Prague, Czech Republic which Hunter Biden attended with his daughter Finnegan Biden.

This series also includes email messages related to official White House travel in which James (Jim) Biden was included. Email topics include scheduling information for a White House holiday tour in December 2015 from Ann Marie Muldoon, an invitation to a plaque dedication ceremony in May 2016 from Kathy Chung, and confirmation of accompanying Vice President Biden on official travel to Ireland in June 2016 from Sara Biden. The May 2016 event was a Memorial Day dedication of the National Guard headquarters in New Castle, DE in memory of Beau Biden.

**System of Arrangement**

Records responsive to this FOIA request were found in the Biden Vice Presidential Electronic Records

collection which includes email messages and electronic files. These records are maintained in the Executive Office of the President instance of the Electronic Records Archive (EOP ERA) which contains electronic records created or received by the administration of President Barack Obama. These electronic records are born-digital files and are primarily .eml, .pdf, .wpd, and .doc files.

The responsive electronic records retrieved from EOP ERA are saved in search results lists (SRLs) and are arranged chronologically by creation date. The following is a list of the SRLs saved and processed in response to FOIA 2022-120-F[3]:

**Biden Vice Presidential Records: Electronic Records**

**Point C Exchange Email - Hunter Biden (travel) 2009-01-20 to 2011-12-31**

14 email messages

**Point E Exchange Email - James Biden (travel) 2013-09-25 to 2017-01-20**

5 email messages

**Last modified:** September 19, 2024