



**Homeland  
Security**

*Privacy Office, Mail Stop 0655*

November 19, 2024

**SENT VIA E-MAIL TO: FOIA@epic.org**

Jeramie Scott  
Electronic Privacy Information Center  
1519 New Hampshire Avenue NW  
Washington, District of Columbia 20036

**RE: CISA Case Number 2024-NPFO-00295**

Dear Requester:

This letter is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) dated March 12, 2024. You have requested the unclassified 2022 report, including any appendices or other attachments, by independent experts that the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) commissioned on the threat posed by surveillance technology exploitation of flaws in Diameter and Signaling System 7 (SS7).

A search of Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), for documents responsive to your request produced a total of 111 pages. I have considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing the record set and have applied the FOIA exemptions as required by the statute and the Attorney General's guidance. I have determined that the 111 pages are withheld in their entirety pursuant to Title 5 U.S.C. § 552 Exemption Code: (b)(5), FOIA Exemption 5.

FOIA Exemption 5 protects from disclosure those inter- or intra-agency documents that are normally privileged in the civil discovery context. The three most frequently invoked privileges are the deliberative process privilege, the attorney work-product privilege, and the attorney-client privilege. After carefully reviewing the responsive documents, I determined that the responsive documents qualify for protection under the Deliberative Process Privilege. The deliberative process privilege protects the integrity of the deliberative or decision-making processes within the agency by exempting from mandatory disclosure opinions, conclusions, and recommendations included within inter-agency or intra-agency memoranda or letters. The release of this internal information would discourage the expression of candid opinions and inhibit the free and frank exchange of information among agency personnel.

You have a right to appeal the above withholding determination. Should you wish to do so, you must send your appeal and a copy of this letter, within 90 days of the date of this letter, to:

Privacy Office, Attn: FOIA Appeals, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE, Mail Stop 0655, Washington, D.C. 20528-0655, following the procedures outlined in the DHS FOIA regulations at 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.5(e)(2). Your envelope and letter should be marked "FOIA Appeal." Copies of the FOIA and DHS FOIA regulations are available at [www.dhs.gov/foia](http://www.dhs.gov/foia).

Provisions of FOIA allow DHS to charge for processing fees, up to \$25, unless you seek a waiver of fees. In this instance, because the cost is below the \$25 minimum, there is no charge.

You may contact the DHS FOIA Public Liaison at 202-343-1743 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. You may also contact OGIS at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you need to contact our office again about this matter, please refer to **2024-NPFO-00295**. This office can be reached at [FOIA@HQ.DHS.GOV](mailto:FOIA@HQ.DHS.GOV) or call 202-343-1743 or toll free 1-866-431-0486.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Bridges", written in a cursive style.

Gregory Bridges  
Senior Director, FOIA Operations and Management