



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

1400 Independence  
Avenue, SW.  
Washington, D.C.  
20250

Vandhana Bala  
Mercy for Animals  
8033 Sunset Blvd., Suite 864  
Los Angeles, California 90046

NOV 08 2017

RE: FOIA-2018-00012

Dear Ms. Bala:

This is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated October 4, 2017, to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). You requested access to a copy of all Memorandums of Interview related to humane handling and slaughter, for the months of July, August, and September 2017. We received your request in our Office on October 5, 2017.

The FSIS FOIA staff works with subject matter experts across the Agency to locate responsive documents. For this request, we conducted a records search in the Office of Data Integration and Food Protection. FSIS' search began on October 5, 2017. Our search includes responsive records in FSIS' control on that date.

We have located 18 pages that are responsive to your request. After a thorough review, we have determined that portions of these pages fall within the exemptions to the FOIA's mandatory disclosure requirements, as explained below. In particular, we have determined that portions of these documents are exempt from disclosure under (b)(4) and (b)(6) of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended. Accordingly, this request is granted in part.

Some responsive records constitute confidential commercial or financial information, which is exempt from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 4, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4). Disclosure of this information may cause substantial competitive harm to the person from which this information was obtained. Further, disclosure of this information would impair the government's ability to obtain necessary information in the future.

Portions of the responsive records are exempt from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). Exemption 6 protects information that would constitute an unwarranted invasion of an individual's personal privacy. The types of information withheld under Exemption 6 include the names, addresses, or cell phone numbers of employees of Establishments and third parties, including, but not limited to interviewees or customers.

You may appeal this determination within 90 days from the date of this letter. Your appeal should include copies of your original request and this response, as well as a discussion of the reasons supporting your appeal. The envelope should be plainly

marked to indicate that it contains a FOIA appeal. If you decide to appeal this determination, please send your appeal to:

Paul Kiecker  
Acting Administrator  
Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Room 2168, South Building  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

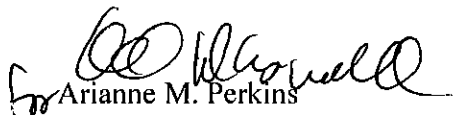
Please be advised that your FOIA request, including your identity and the information made available, is releasable to the public under any subsequent FOIA requests. However, FSIS does not release your personal privacy information, such as home addresses, telephone numbers, or Social Security Numbers, all of which are protected from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 6.

If you have any questions about the way this request was handled, please contact Alison Kilrain at 202-720-0283 or via email at [Alison.Kilrain@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Alison.Kilrain@fsis.usda.gov). If you have general questions about FSIS' FOIA procedures or regulations, please contact our FOIA Public Liaison, Mark Brook, at 202-690-1787 or via email at [Mark.Brook@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Mark.Brook@fsis.usda.gov).

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (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; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Thank you for your interest in FSIS programs and policies.

Sincerely,

  
for Arianne M. Perkins

Director, Freedom of Information Act Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service

Enclosure

**Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods**  
**COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly**