

United States Department of Education

Office of the Secretary FOIA Service Center

July 28, 2023

Margaret Moran 1701 Rhode Island Ave. NW Washington, DC 20036

RE: FOIA Request No. 23-01928-F

Dear Margaret Moran:

This letter is a final response to your request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, dated June 5, 2023, and received in the U.S. Department of Education's (Department) FOIA Service Center on June 6, 2023.

You requested the following:

"All settlements or other final agreements reached with any student loan borrower who has filed an "adversary" complaint against the Department in bankruptcy. While Student Defense understands that certain information may not be disclosable under FOIA due to privacy concerns, in light of the fact that much information about individual borrowers is already part of the public record (due to the filing of the adversary complaint and associated pleadings), we specifically request that the Department narrowly tailor any redactions that it believes are necessary. This request can be limited to any agreements executed with a borrower between November 17, 2022, and present. We specifically request that the Department search the Office of the General Counsel (and the Division of Postsecondary Education within OGC) and the Litigation Support Team within Federal Student Aid. Note: In lieu of documents, Student Defense would accept a chart or description providing the requested information."

Your request was forwarded to the Office of the General Counsel and Federal Student Aid. The Department has identified 1 page that is being released in full. Please note that public access to records related to the information identified in the responsive record is available via PACER at the following link: <u>https://pacer.uscourts.gov/</u>.

The pages are available for download via the Public Access Link (PAL). You can access your PAL account, or register for a PAL account, at this link: <u>https://foiaxpress.pal.ed.gov/app/PalLogin.aspx</u>

Fees

There are no fees associated with processing this request. Therefore, any fee waiver request submitted for this FOIA request is not applicable.

Additional Assistance

You have the right to seek assistance and/or dispute resolution services from the Department's FOIA Public Liaison or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The FOIA Public Liaison is responsible, among other duties, for assisting in the resolution of FOIA disputes. OGIS,

which is outside the Department, offers ombuds services, including dispute resolution, to assist FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Please note, OGIS's assistance does not replace the administrative appeal process described below. You may contact the FOIA Public Liaison or OGIS at:

FOIA Public Liaison Office of the Secretary U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Ave., SW, LBJ 7C132 Washington, DC 20202-4500 Email: <u>robert.wehausen@ed.gov</u> Phone:_202-205-0733 Fax: 202-401-0920

Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road, OGIS College Park, MD 20740-6001 Email: <u>OGIS@nara.gov</u> Phone:_202-741-5770 or 1-877-684-6448

You have the right to appeal this decision, as well as decisions in any previous interim releases, with the Department by submitting an appeal to the address below, no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. Using the FOIA Public Liaison or OGIS services described above does not affect your right or the deadline to file an appeal. Your appeal must be in writing and must include a detailed statement of all legal and factual bases for the appeal. It should be accompanied by this letter, a copy of your initial letter of request, and any documentation that supports the argument you wish the Department to consider in making an administrative determination on your appeal. You may submit your appeal by:

Mail: Appeals Office Office of the Secretary U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, LBJ 7W104 Washington, DC 20202-4536

Online Form: www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/foia-appeal-form.pdf

E-mail: EDFOIAappeals@ed.gov

Fax: 202-401-0920

Sincerely,

Sandra Lewandowski

Sandra Lewandowski Government Information Specialist Office of the Secretary