



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

5/5/2025

Arthur Watkins  
Freedman Reparations Fund Trust  
American Freedmen Legal Fund  
Freedmen Nation

RE: Your FOIA Request to Treasury, Case Number 2025-FO-00112

Dear Mr. Watkins:

This is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, dated 03/13/2025. On April 11, 2025, you amended your request and requested copies of the following records:

"..copies of the following records created or maintained by the Department of the Treasury and/or its bureaus and subagencies between January 1, 2020 and April 11, 2025:

1. Any internal memoranda, policy reviews, legal analyses, or correspondence concerning or referencing:
  - The Freedmen Reparations Fund Trust (FRFT)
  - The March 13, 2025 Declaration
  - The March 14, 2025 Amendment
  - The Freedmen Nation
  - The concept of OPT-IN reparations disbursement mechanisms involving private fiduciary trusts
2. Communications or policy reviews from the following offices or officials:
  - The Office of the General Counsel
  - The Office of Domestic Finance
  - The Office of Fiscal Service
  - Any senior Treasury officials involved in reparations, economic justice policy, or fiduciary trust analysis
3. Records of meetings, briefings, or communications involving Treasury staff and any other federal office, including:
  - The White House Domestic Policy Council
  - Congressional staff from committees or members involved in reparations or Black American equity issues
  - Any communication regarding third-party fiduciary models for reparations administration

4. Any references to or internal determinations about the exclusive claims made in the FRFT Declaration and Amendment, particularly regarding:

- Legal recognition
- Conflicts with other entities
- Reparations trust competition or legitimacy disputes"

Your request has been processed under the provisions of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552. A search was conducted within the Treasury Departmental Offices for records responsive to your request. No records were located.

There are no fees assessed at this time since allowable charges fell below \$25.

You have the right to appeal this decision within 90 days from the date of this letter. By filing an appeal, you preserve your rights under FOIA and give the agency a chance to review and reconsider your request and the agency's decision. Your appeal must be in writing, signed by you or your representative, and should contain the rationale for your appeal. Please also cite the FOIA reference number noted above. Your appeal should be addressed to:

FOIA Appeal  
FOIA and Transparency  
Office of Privacy, Transparency, and Records  
Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20220

If you submit your appeal by mail, clearly mark the letter and the envelope with the words "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days from the date of this letter.

If you would like to discuss this response before filing an appeal to attempt to resolve your dispute without going through the appeals process, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison for assistance via email at FOIAPL@treasury.gov, or via phone at (202) 622-8098. A FOIA Public Liaison is a supervisory official to whom FOIA requesters can raise questions or concerns about the agency's FOIA process. FOIA Public Liaisons can explain agency records, suggest agency offices that may have responsive records, provide an estimated date of completion, and discuss how to reformulate and/or reduce the scope of requests in order to minimize fees and expedite processing time.

If the FOIA Public Liaison is unable to satisfactorily resolve your question or concern, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) also mediates disputes between FOIA requesters and federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. If you wish to contact OGIS, you may contact the agency directly by email at OGIS@nara.gov, by phone at (877) 684-6448, by fax at (202) 741-5769 or by mail at the address below:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740-6001

Please note that contacting any agency official (including the FOIA analyst, FOIA Requester Service Center, FOIA Public Liaison) and/or OGIS is not an alternative to filing an administrative appeal and does not stop the 90-day appeal clock.

You may reach me by phone at (202) 622-0930, extension 2; or by e-mail at [FOIA@treasury.gov](mailto:FOIA@treasury.gov). Please reference FOIA case number 2025-FO-00112 when contacting our office about this request.

Sincerely,



Shirley Brown  
Senior FOIA analyst  
*for* Mark Bittner  
Director for FOIA and Transparency  
Office of Privacy, Transparency, and Records