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	HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH,	NO. CV 2:15-2573 PSG (JPR)
14	Disintiff	
15	Plaintiff, v.	DEFENDANTS' RESPONSES
16	· ·	TO PLAINTIFF'S
17	DRUG ENFORCEMENT	INTERROGATORIES 1-5
18	ADMINISTRATION et al.,	
19	Defendants.	Hon. Philip S. Gutierrez
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Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 33 and this Court's Order of August 14, 2015, Defendants hereby submit their objections and responses to Plaintiff's Interrogatories 1-5.

OBJECTIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL INTERROGATORIES

- Defendants object to Plaintiff's Interrogatories to the extent they 1. purport to require responses from or concerning Federal Government entities other than Defendants the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"), the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), and the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS"), on grounds of relevance, overbreadth, and undue burden. Among other things, Defendants object to Plaintiff's definitions of "You," "Your," "Defendant," and "Government" as overbroad and beyond the scope of any issue relevant to jurisdiction. DEA, the FBI, and DHS are the only named Defendants that Plaintiff's Complaint has alleged retain telephony metadata relating to Plaintiff. See Compl. ¶¶ 11, 13, 17. Responses of other Defendants, or regarding other Government entities, would therefore not be relevant to the jurisdictional issues identified by the Court, regarding "the challenged issue of retention of [Plaintiff] HRW's call records." Order of Aug. 14, 2015, at 14. To the extent Plaintiff's Interrogatories seek such responses, they exceed the scope of permissible discovery under the Court's Order and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Moreover, responses on behalf of unidentified defendants DOES 1-100, who have not been served in this action, would also exceed the limited discovery authorized by the Court's Order as well as any discovery authorized by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Defendants will therefore respond to Plaintiff's Interrogatories only on behalf of Defendants DEA, the FBI, and DHS, and each of these Defendants will respond only on its own behalf.
- 2. Defendants object to Plaintiff's Interrogatories to the extent they seek information regarding telephony metadata that does not relate to Plaintiff. Any such information is not relevant to Plaintiff's standing or to the jurisdictional issues

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identified by the Court, regarding "the challenged issue of retention of [Plaintiff] HRW's call records." Order of Aug. 14, 2015, at 14. Because Plaintiff has not identified the telephone numbers it alleges are related to it, Defendants are unable to provide responses regarding collected telephony metadata that are limited to telephony metadata related to Plaintiff. However, Plaintiff's Complaint does not allege that any Defendant ever initiated a query of collected telephony metadata using a telephone number related to Plaintiff. Nor does Plaintiff's Complaint allege that any telephony metadata related to Plaintiff ever appeared in the results of any query initiated by a Defendant based on reasonable articulable suspicion. Defendants therefore object to providing information that solely concerns such query results on the ground that such information is not relevant and falls outside the scope of permissible discovery under the Court's Order and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Any information that Defendants provide regarding such query results is provided subject to this Objection.

- Defendants object to Plaintiff's Interrogatories to the extent they seek 3. information that exceeds the scope of discovery permitted by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Rules of Civil Procedure of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, and the Court's Order of August 14, 2015. Defendants further object to the Instructions set forth in Plaintiff's Interrogatories to the extent that they expand, alter or modify the scope of permissible discovery under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Rules of Civil Procedure of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, and the Court's Order of August 14, 2015.
- 4. Defendants object to Plaintiff's Interrogatories to the extent that they could be construed as seeking information protected from disclosure by the attorney-client privilege, the work product doctrine, the deliberative process privilege, the law enforcement privilege, or any other applicable privilege or immunity recognized under statute, regulation or applicable case law. Defendants

do not waive any applicable privilege through the inadvertent or partial disclosure of any otherwise privileged information in response to these Interrogatories.

- 5. Defendants object to Plaintiff's Interrogatories to the extent they seek information that is publicly available and/or that is obtainable from other sources that are more convenient, more efficient, more practical, less burdensome and/or less expensive, on the grounds that such production would be unduly burdensome and unreasonably cumulative.
- 6. The foregoing objections are incorporated in each of the responses set forth below as if the same had been repeated in full and are neither limited nor waived by the recital of similar or different objections in each of the responses, nor by the provision of information in addition to the objections in any of the responses.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSES

PLAINTIFF'S INTERROGATORY NO. 1: State whether the DELETED DATABASE was, at all times, the sole REPOSITORY for ALL PROGRAM CALL RECORDS POSSESSED by the GOVERNMENT, including ALL DEFENDANTS. The DELETED DATABASE was not the sole REPOSITORY if ANY PROGRAM CALL RECORDS were stored in ANY REPOSITORY with OTHER CALL RECORDS or other data, even if such other REPOSITORY was not dedicated specifically to PROGRAM CALL RECORDS.

OBJECTIONS: Defendants incorporate the General Objections set forth above. Defendants further object that this Interrogatory, including Plaintiff's definition of "Repository," is overbroad and calls for the provision of irrelevant information. Only information regarding Defendants' current possession of telephone metadata, collected by DEA as described in Agent Patterson's declarations of December 15, 2014, and June 11, 2015 (ECF No. 1-1, 24-2) [hereinafter, the "Collected Metadata"], relating to Plaintiff is arguably relevant to Plaintiff's standing or to the jurisdictional issues identified by the Court, regarding "the challenged issue of retention of [Plaintiff] HRW's call records," Order of

Aug. 14, 2015, at 14. Defendants' current possession of Collected Metadata relating to others, and Defendants' past possession of Collected Metadata, is not relevant because it would have no bearing on Plaintiff's standing.

Moreover, Defendants' past or current possession of the results of queries of Collected Metadata using a specific telephone number based on a reasonable articulable suspicion that that telephone number was related to an ongoing federal criminal investigation [hereinafter, "Query Based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion"] is not relevant and exceeds the scope of permissible jurisdictional discovery under the Court's Order of August 14, 2015, because Plaintiff's Complaint does not allege that any Defendant ever initiated a query of collected telephony metadata using a telephone number related to Plaintiff, nor does Plaintiff's Complaint allege that any telephony metadata related to Plaintiff ever appeared in the results of any Query Based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion.

Defendants further object that this Interrogatory is unduly burdensome to the extent it seeks to require Defendants to determine whether any agency file, system, or backup storage medium contains one or more reports of the results of a Query Based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion (hereinafter, "Report" or "Reports"). As described above, Defendants' potential possession of such Reports is irrelevant to Plaintiff's standing. However, to the extent such Reports may in some instances have been transmitted as attachments to electronic mail, such attachments, or the information contained therein, could conceivably have been printed, stored in individual electronic mail files, or saved through automatic backup processes. In order to identify or describe the location of any such isolated Reports, it would be necessary to engage in an extensive manual review of files, systems, and backup storage media in each of these agencies. It would be unduly burdensome to undertake this effort given the lack of relevance of Defendants' possession of Reports to Plaintiff's standing.

DEA'S RESPONSE: Subject to and without waiving any objections, DEA

responds as follows: The database identified in Agent Patterson's declarations of December 15, 2014, and June 11, 2015 (ECF No. 1-1, 24-2) [hereinafter, the "DEA Database"] was the only database ever used to store raw Collected Metadata unconnected to the results of a particular Query Based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion. Prior to September 2013, Collected Metadata received from telecommunications service providers went through a standardization process before being added to the DEA Database. This standardization process entailed the creation of temporary files that might have contained Collected Metadata. These temporary files were the only files that might have contained Collected Metadata before it was added to the DEA Database.

The DEA Database is the only database that was used to conduct Queries Based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion. Prior to September 2013, the DEA Database housed Collected Metadata that had been collected during the immediately preceding two years. Collected Metadata older than two years was automatically deleted on a continuing basis. Thus, a Query Based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion was able to obtain results for at most the two most recent years prior to the Query.

No Collected Metadata was extracted from the DEA Database unless it was in a Report of the results of a DEA Database Query Based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion. When a Query Based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion was initiated in the DEA Database, a Report of results would be generated. The only Collected Metadata contained in the Report was Collected Metadata that was in the DEA Database at the time of the Query (thus, was at most two years old) and was identified as linked to the telephone number used for such a Query. If the telephone number used for the Query yielded no results in the DEA Database, the Report would not contain any Collected Metadata. DEA has retained copies of all such Reports in a separate QuickCheck database. See DEA's Response to Interrogatory No. 2.

FBI'S RESPONSE: Subject to and without waiving any objections, FBI responds as follows: The FBI has some Collected Metadata from Reports in its possession. See FBI's response to Interrogatory Nos. 2, 5.

<u>DHS'S RESPONSE:</u> Subject to and without waiving any objections, DHS responds as follows: DHS received no Collected Metadata other than Collected Metadata that appeared in Reports that included the results of Queries based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion that DHS personnel requested to be run in the DEA Database. DHS has no Repository specifically designated as a place where Reports containing results of Queries Based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion should be stored.

<u>PLAINTIFF'S INTERROGATORY NO. 2:</u> DESCRIBE each REPOSITORY where PROGRAM CALL RECORDS are STORED.

OBJECTIONS: Defendants incorporate the General Objections set forth above. Defendants further object that this Interrogatory, including Plaintiff's definition of "Repository," is overbroad and calls for the provision of irrelevant information. Descriptions of "repositories" that do not contain Collected Metadata relating to Plaintiff are not relevant to Plaintiff's standing or to the jurisdictional issues identified by the Court, regarding "the challenged issue of retention of [Plaintiff] HRW's call records," Order of Aug. 14, 2015, at 14. In particular, descriptions of "repositories" that contain only Reports of the results of Queries Based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion are not relevant and exceed the scope of permissible jurisdictional discovery under the Court's Order of August 14, 2015, because Plaintiff's Complaint does not allege that any Defendant ever initiated a query of collected telephony metadata using a telephone number related to Plaintiff, nor does Plaintiff's Complaint allege that any telephony metadata related to Plaintiff ever appeared in the results of any Query Based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion.

Defendants further object that this Interrogatory is unduly burdensome to the extent it seeks to require Defendants to determine whether any agency file, system, or backup storage medium contains one or more Reports of the results of a Query Based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion, and to describe any such file, system, or backup storage medium. As described above, Defendants' potential possession of such Reports is irrelevant to Plaintiff's standing. However, to the extent such Reports may in some instances have been transmitted as attachments to electronic mail, such attachments, or the information contained therein, could conceivably have been printed, stored in individual electronic mail files, or saved through automatic backup processes. In order to identify or describe the location of any such isolated Reports, it would be necessary to engage in an extensive manual review of files, systems, and backup storage media in each of these agencies. It would be unduly burdensome to undertake this effort given the lack of relevance of Defendants' possession of Reports to Plaintiff's standing.

Defendants further object that Plaintiff's definition of "Describe" is vague, ambiguous, overbroad, unduly burdensome, seeks information beyond the scope of the Court's Order of August 14, 2015, and calls for information that is protected by the law enforcement privilege.

DEA'S RESPONSE: Subject to and without waiving any objections, DEA responds as follows: DEA's QuickCheck database, mentioned in DEA's response to Plaintiff's Interrogatory No. 1, only contains Reports. Thus, no Collected Metadata relating to a telephone number is in the QuickCheck database unless that telephone number was used prior to September 2013 to conduct a Query Based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion or was identified in the Report generated from such a Query. The QuickCheck database is in the sole possession of DEA and is housed in DEA's Office of Special Intelligence. This database was created and is retained solely in order to respond to discovery requests that may be submitted by a criminal defendant, regarding whether telephone numbers associated with that

defendant were subject to a Query Based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion. Searches of the database can be conducted using either a specific telephone number or the investigation file number of the investigation for which the original DEA Database Query Based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion was conducted. DEA is required to maintain the QuickCheck database in order to respond to discovery requests submitted by criminal defendants and does not use or access the QuickCheck database for any other purpose.

Because DEA transmitted Reports to requesting offices using its classified electronic mail system, DEA's automatic backup storage system for its classified electronic mail, known as Merlin, likely contains copies of Reports. The Merlin backup system is housed on secure servers and is not generally accessible.

FBI'S RESPONSE: Subject to and without waiving any objections, FBI responds as follows: For some period of time, Reports generated by DEA in response to Queries Based on Reasonable Suspicion that had been requested by FBI were transmitted via an attachment to an email sent by FBI personnel through the FBI's classified email system (FBINet) to the FBI field office submitting the request.

Since 2011, and in some cases since 2009, FBINET emails have been automatically stored on secure servers in a system known as Enterprise Vault. Those servers are not generally accessible; they can be searched only by certain FBI personnel for limited purposes. Searches cannot be directed across-the-board at all FBI emails or at groups of email accounts at once, but rather have to be targeted to specific, individual users.

Some Collected Metadata from Reports has been located in documents uploaded to the FBI's Sentinel case management database, and its predecessor database known as Automated Case Support System (ACS). Paper copies of those documents would likely be found in the corresponding FBI field office files.

In addition, there is a paper file stored at FBI Headquarters that contains

Collected Metadata from Reports.

<u>DHS'S RESPONSE:</u> Subject to and without waiving any objections, DHS responds as follows: DHS received no Collected Metadata other than Collected Metadata that appeared in Reports that included the results of Queries based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion that DHS personnel requested to be run in the DEA Database. DHS has no Repository specifically designated as a place where Reports containing results of Queries Based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion should be stored.

<u>PLAINTIFF'S INTERROGATORY NO. 3:</u> State the specific steps the GOVERNMENT took to "quarantine" and "purge" the DELETED DATABASE, as discussed in the Declaration of Robert W. Patterson, ¶ 3 (ECF No. 24-2) filed in THIS ACTION.

OBJECTIONS: Defendants incorporate the General Objections set forth above.

DEA'S RESPONSE: Subject to and without waiving any objections, DEA responds as follows: On August 5-6, 2013, DEA physically transferred the DEA Database onto a server that was not connected to DEA's network, which made the DEA Database inaccessible to Queries Based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion and prevented any additions to the Database. By January 19, 2015, DEA had deleted all data in the DEA Database. The servers that had housed the DEA Database both before and after August 6, 2013, have been replaced since January 19, 2015.

<u>PLAINTIFF'S INTERROGATORY NO. 4:</u> State the specific steps the GOVERNMENT took to IDENTIFY and DESTROY PROGRAM CALL RECORDS that existed outside of the DELETED DATABASE.

<u>OBJECTIONS:</u> Defendants incorporate the General Objections set forth above. Defendants further object that this Interrogatory seeks irrelevant information. Only information regarding Defendants' current possession of

Collected Metadata relating to Plaintiff is arguably relevant to Plaintiff's standing or to the jurisdictional issues identified by the Court, regarding "the challenged issue of retention of [Plaintiff] HRW's call records," Order of Aug. 14, 2015, at 14. Information about Defendants' current possession of Collected Metadata relating to others, and any efforts undertaken by Defendants to identify or destroy Collected Metadata relating to others, is not relevant because it would have no bearing on Plaintiff's standing.

Moreover, information about Defendants' current possession or efforts to identify and destroy Reports of the results of Queries Based on Reasonable Suspicion is not relevant and exceeds the scope of permissible jurisdictional discovery under the Court's Order of August 14, 2015, because Plaintiff's Complaint does not allege that any Defendant ever initiated a query of collected telephony metadata using a telephone number related to Plaintiff, nor does Plaintiff's Complaint allege that any telephony metadata related to Plaintiff ever appeared in the results of any Query Based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion.

DEA'S RESPONSE: Subject to and without waiving any objections, DEA responds as follows: In April 2014, DEA searched all locations where any temporary files created during the standardization process described in response to Interrogatory No. 1 had existed and insured that no such temporary files containing Collected Metadata still existed. The servers that had housed any such temporary standardization files have been replaced within the past year. DEA has also verified that any backup tapes that had been used to backup Collected Metadata in the DEA Database have been overwritten and no longer contain any Collected Metadata.

Once Collected Metadata was added to the DEA Database, it did not leave the DEA Database unless it was deleted or unless it was included in a Report generated, before the DEA Database was quarantined, in response to a Query Based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion. Only Collected Metadata that was in

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was identified as linked to the telephone number used for such a Query would be found in such Reports. Reports were provided to the requestor subject to stringent caveats. These included instructions limiting use and dissemination of the Report, requiring the return of the Report to a field division point of contact for final disposition as soon as the Report had served its purpose, and authorizing the field division point of contact to destroy the Report upon determination that retention was no longer necessary to support an investigation or related activity. Reports were therefore not supposed to be kept in the investigation files of requesting agencies or offices, and requesters were supposed to destroy their copies as soon as possible. Special Operations Division personnel routinely conducted training for points of contact in DEA and other agencies regarding how to handle and dispose of Reports. While copies of these Reports continue to exist in the QuickCheck database, those copies cannot be destroyed because they must be maintained for the purpose of responding to discovery requests by criminal defendants. The QuickCheck database is not used for any purpose other than responding to such discovery requests.

By September 2013, Reports ceased being generated. No Collected Metadata was extracted, transferred, or copied from the DEA Database since that time.

FBI'S RESPONSE: Subject to and without waiving any objections, FBI responds as follows: FBI field office employees who received Reports were authorized to destroy the Reports upon determination that retention was no longer necessary to support an investigation or related activity. In addition, searches have been done in the past to identify any Reports that had been uploaded into Sentinel or ACS. In the event a Report was found, the field office that uploaded the Report was directed to delete the Report from the system.

DHS'S RESPONSE: Subject to and without waiving any objections, DHS responds as follows: DHS employees were authorized to destroy Reports received

 by DHS upon determination that retention was no longer necessary to support an investigation or related activity. DHS has no Repository specifically designated as a place where Reports containing results of Queries Based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion should be stored.

<u>PLAINTIFF's INTERROGATORY NO. 5:</u> State the NUMBER of PROGRAM CALL RECORDS the GOVERNMENT currently POSSESSES.

OBJECTIONS: Defendants incorporate the General Objections set forth above. Defendants further object that this Interrogatory seeks information that is not relevant and exceeds the scope of permissible discovery under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and this Court's Order of August 14, 2015. Only information regarding Defendants' current possession of Collected Metadata relating to Plaintiff is arguably relevant to Plaintiff's standing or to the jurisdictional issues identified by the Court, regarding "the challenged issue of retention of [Plaintiff] HRW's call records," Order of Aug. 14, 2015, at 14. Defendants' current possession of Collected Metadata relating to others, and the number of records containing Collected Metadata relating to others, is not relevant because it would have no bearing on Plaintiff's standing.

The only Collected Metadata that has been identified as remaining in Defendants' possession is Collected Metadata that appeared in Reports of the results of Queries Based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion. Only Collected Metadata that was in the DEA Database at the time of the Query (thus, was at most two years old) and was identified as linked to the telephone number used for such a Query would be found in such Reports. The number of such Reports, or other records containing information from such Reports, is not relevant and exceeds the scope of permissible jurisdictional discovery under the Court's Order of August 14, 2015, because Plaintiff's Complaint does not allege that any Defendant ever initiated a query of collected telephony metadata using a telephone number related

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to Plaintiff, nor does Plaintiff's Complaint allege that any telephony metadata related to Plaintiff ever appeared in the results of any Query Based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion.

Defendants further object that it would be unduly burdensome to ascertain the specific number of records in Defendants' possession that contain Collected Metadata that appeared in the results of Queries Based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion. As explained above in objections to Interrogatory No. 1, it would be unduly burdensome for Defendants to determine with absolute certainty whether Ouery results containing Collected Metadata have been retained in an individual's files, in an electronic mail account, or in a backup storage device. It would be necessary to manually search agency files, including electronic files of thousands of agency personnel and individual electronic mail accounts, paper files in individual offices as well as central records storage repositories, as well as backup storage media, in order to make such a determination, or to ascertain the precise number of documents containing such Query results. It would also be unduly burdensome to determine a precise number of Reports of Query results that contain Collected Metadata in DEA's QuickCheck database. Queries that yielded negative results may still be documented in a Report that would contain no Collected Metadata. The documents in the QuickCheck database consist of nonsearchable pdfs. It would therefore be necessary to manually review each document in the QuickCheck database individually in order to ascertain how many documents consist of Reports that contain Collected Metadata. It would also be unduly burdensome to determine a precise number of documents containing Collected Metadata from Reports in the paper file at FBI Headquarters. Not all documents in this file contain Collected Metadata from Reports. It would be necessary to manually review each document in order to determine if it contains Collected Metadata from Reports. Because of the large number of documents in this file, this process would be time-consuming and unduly burdensome, given their lack of

rèlevance.

FBI'S RESPONSE: Subject to and without waiving any objections, FBI responds as follows: FBI identified approximately thirty-two documents in Sentinel and approximately twenty-three documents in ACS containing Collected Metadata from Reports, some of which are duplicates. Five additional documents in Sentinel and six additional documents in ACS have been identified as possibly containing Collected Metadata from Reports, but the text of these documents could not be viewed electronically.

Dated: October 20, 2015

As to objections:

Kathryn L. Wyer

Trial Attorney

Department of Justice

I declare under penalty of perjury that the Responses set forth above on behalf of the Drug Enforcement Administration are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. 10-19-15 Robert W. Patterson Date Assistant Special Agent in Charge U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

I declare under penalty of perjury that the Responses set forth above on behalf of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, based upon information provided to me by employees of the FBI. 19 Oct 2015 Date Section Chief Federal Bureau of Investigation Defendants' Responses to Plaintiff's Interrogatories 1-5 Case No. CV 2:15-2573 PSG (JPR)

I declare under penalty of perjury that the Responses set forth above on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, based on information provided to me in my official capacity.

René E. Browne

Assistant General Counsel for Litigation

Department of Homeland Security