

Dear Mr. Maass:

In your recent email you state, "The National Archives and Records Administration does not have original classification authority; therefore, there are no records responsive to your request."

However, the section of the Reducing Overclassification Act I am citing covers derivative classification. I believe that this applies to NARA. Could you please clarify your response as soon as possible? "

I reached out to the Acting Director of the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) regarding your question. And he informed me that the Act says that agency MAY consider classification practices when it comes to the awarding of cash awards.

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-111publ258/pdf/PLAW-111publ258.pdf>

His office has not seen any agency documenting that action to date.

Technically, ISOO does make derivative classification decisions on a very small basis, even though NARA does not have OCA. Having said that, NARA has never issued an award regarding reducing derivative classification.

I hope that is helpful to you and your organization.

Kind regards,

Joseph A. Scanlon
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